



REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE OCTOBER 2001

FUNDING

Governor Davis has signed AB 62 and ACR 5. The Task Force extends great thanks to all those that worked so hard to make this happen. Authors include Assembly Members: **Nation** (Coauthors: Aanestad, Alquist, Aroner, Ashburn, Bates, Briggs, Calderon, Bill Campbell, John Campbell, Canciamilla, Cardenas, Cardoza, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cogdill, Cohn, Corbett, Correa, Cox, Daucher, Diaz, Dutra, Firebaugh, Florez, Frommer, Goldberg, Harman, Havice, Hertzberg, Hollingsworth, Horton, Jackson, Keeley, Kehoe, Kelley, Koretz, La Suer, Leach, Leonard, Leslie, Liu, Longville, Lowenthal, Maddox, Maldonado, Matthews, Migden, Mountjoy, Nakano, Negrete McLeod, for **ACR 5** and

Assembly Members **Migden** and **Wiggins** (Coauthors: Alquist, Chan, Jackson, Keeley, Maldonado, Nation, Richman, Salinas, Vargas, Washington, and Wayne) (Coauthors: Senators Chesbro, Kuehl, Ortiz, and Torlakson) for **AB 62**.

To view bill status go to:

AB 62: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_0051-0100/ab_62_bill_20011010_status.html

ACR 5 http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/acr_5_bill_20011002_status.html

MONITORING

An aerial survey of coastal areas of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties was flown in August to detect Sudden Oak Death areas in the North Coast. The flights, which covered thirty-five miles inland from the coast, noted suspicious areas detectable from a fixed-wing aircraft. On the ground follow-up surveys are underway, and will be completed by the end of October. To date no *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death, has been found. The flights were a cooperative effort of the USDA Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

REGULATIONS

Sampling guidelines for *P. ramorum* were issued by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The guidelines require "official" samples be used for making any decisions for regulatory purposes. "Official" samples are those taken by county, state and federal regulatory officials and other authorized personnel who are trained in the sampling, data collection and submission procedures. The guidelines also provide information on symptoms and sampling for most known hosts and a thorough list of contacts for more assistance. The sampling guidelines may be viewed at the California Department of Food and Agriculture website www.cdffa.ca.gov.

OREGON

Eradication attempt in Southern Oregon-Trees and shrubs on the seven sites confirmed with *Phytophthora ramorum* near Brookings, Oregon are being cut, piled and burned to remove all host plants and a 50 to 100 foot buffer zone. Less than 40 acres is being



treated. Simpson Timber is also cutting, piling and burning a potential hosts on a one-acre site in Del Norte County, right along the California/Oregon border. The pathogen was NOT successfully recovered from this area but it appears to be infested based on visual symptoms on a few tanoaks. The trees are being destroyed to eradicate or slow the spread of *P. ramorum* into Oregon. The climate and composition of the forest has Oregon forestry and agriculture officials very concerned about the potential impacts of *P. ramorum*.

MARIN COUNTY

Fire hazard test burn in Marin County - A test burn was lit on September 18, 2001 in Marin County in an area heavily infested with *P. ramorum* to evaluate fire behavior and determine the change in fire hazard due to Sudden Oak Death. The test results are still being evaluated but preliminary evidence indicates a slightly elevated fire hazard in areas with Sudden Oak Death. Many areas of Marin County were at extreme risk for fire prior to Sudden Oak Death infestation so even a small increase in hazard is worrisome. Significantly more crown fire is anticipated in areas with Sudden Oak Death under hot, dry, windy conditions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The California Forest Pest Council is holding their annual meeting November 14-16 2001 at the Red Lion in Redding, CA. Presentations will cover Sudden Oak Death and other forest pathogen and insect problems. The California Forest Pest Council is celebrating their 50th anniversary!! More information may be found at their website <http://www.CaForestPestCouncil.org>.

KUDOS TO THE.....

Lucasfilm for facilitating and hosting a COMTF strategic planning session at Skywalker Ranch on September 7. Short and long term needs to address Sudden Oak Death were evaluated and a work plan was developed. Thanks are extended to Tom Forster of Lucasfilm Ltd. and Keith Parker of Marin County Fire Department for making this planning session possible.

The Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture for organizing a Sudden Oak Death Workshop for arborists on September 19 at the Napa County Fairgrounds. Over 225 arborists attended from all over California to learn about Sudden Oak Death regulations, fire behavior, and how to deal with Sudden Oak Death on landscape trees.

The Eldorado National Forest for notifying over 300 summer cabin permittees about the threat of Sudden Oak Death to the Sierra Nevadas and reminding them not to bring any firewood or other plant products from infested coastal areas of California up with them to their cabins.



If you know of a group that is working to minimize the impacts of Sudden Oak Death email the Nicole Palkovsky at palkovsk@nature.berkeley.edu and we'll be sure to include them in our Kudos section.