News Release

Warning to Hikers, Bikers, Campers, And Horseback Riders:

“Don’t Spread Sudden Oak Death”

Contact: Karen Terrill  Mark Stanley  Nicole Palkovsky
Information Officer  Forester  COMTF Coordinator
916 653-5123  916 653-4995  510 642-5938

Sacramento- Planning to go hiking, bike riding, or camping along the coast of Northern California or Southwest Oregon this summer? If so, the California Oak Mortality Task Force reminds all vacationers planning to visit Monterey, Santa Cruz, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, and Mendocino counties that these counties are considered a “Zone of Infestation” due to the presence of a pathogen causing Sudden Oak Death. Removing any plant parts from oak or other host species, and transporting this material without a permit, is illegal.

BEFORE leaving an infested area and heading to a non-infested area please take the following recommended precautions:

- Don’t transport any soil, water or woody material from the infested areas.
- Clean automobile and bicycle tires.
- Clean shoes, paying special attention to the tread of hiking boots that might hold soil.
- Clean your dog’s feet, horse’s hooves, etc.
- Thoroughly clean any items that came in contact with soil and plant material during your visit.
- Clean tents, truck beds or any other areas that might hold infected plant material.

(More)
Thousands of oak trees have been killed by this infestation that was first discovered in 1995 in Mill Valley. The pathogen has infected many important shrub and tree species and the list continues to grow. The disease was most recently found near Brookings, Oregon. We do not know how it is spreading. At this time, there is no known cure.

“This is the time of year when Californians are enjoying lots of outdoor activities. And of course, the temperate climate of the Bay Area is especially attractive during the summer,” said Andrea Tuttle, director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF).” That is why we are sending this warning out to all visitors planning to be in these eight counties. Please follow these recommended precautions so that we might reduce the spread of this disease. “

To learn more about Sudden Oak Death visit [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org)

###