



2008 Sudden Oak Death Education & Outreach Accomplishment Report

Educational and outreach activities for sudden oak death/*Phytophthora ramorum* continue to be an ongoing, cooperative effort, coordinated by the California Oak Mortality Task Force, and including experts from multiple disciplines. This report details education and outreach work provided by COMTF outreach staff (5 employees, both full- and part-time) from January-December 2008.

Program funding is provided by the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region and Pacific Southwest Research Station, with additional support by U.C. Cooperative Extension, Marin Co. and Humboldt/Del Norte Cos., and the U.C. Berkeley Center for Forestry.

Workshops and presentations:

Thousands of people were reached through a variety of workshops and presentations provided by COMTF outreach staff. Highlights include:

- COMTF 2008 annual meeting (131 in attendance); April 15 -17; San Rafael
- Wildland training sessions (107 in attendance at the Sonoma Development Center and the Thomas Fogarty Winery, Woodside);
- SOD Treatment and Management Strategies Community Meetings (Scotts Valley, 25 in attendance; Carmel Valley, 15 in attendance; West Marin, 20 in attendance);
- Preventative Treatment Training Sessions on UC Berkeley campus (229 people at 9 sessions);
- SOD-Blitzes with UC Berkeley's Garbelotto lab (Santa Lucia Preserve, Boonville, Briceland, Petrolia, Woodside, and the East Bay; over 100 in attendance);
- Local regional meetings (North Coast SOD Advisory Group annual meeting, 36 attendees, Eureka; community meetings in Belmont and Burlingame, 50 in attendance; Marin County Departmental SOD meeting, 9 in attendance);
- 2008 annual California Forest Pest Council meeting; November 18-19, Woodland
- and general talks and presentations (more than 1000 people in approximately 30 settings).

COMTF website:

Maintenance of the suddenoakdeath.org website, including updates on technical information and uploading and distributing the monthly COMTF newsletters. Added new multimedia content to the website (audio recordings and slideshows

from the April 2008 COMTF meeting, and new videos from various sources); redesigned the Home Page to be more user-friendly and eliminated the redundant *New & Noteworthy* page; expanded the search capability of the COMTF website to allow unlimited search capabilities, even for PDF documents; and upgraded web design software for further capabilities and use support.

Regular communications and representation:

COMTF outreach staff were in regular contact with agencies, industry professionals and the general public through answering phone calls and emails (approximately 1000 separate contacts), and also represented the COMTF at numerous industry and regulatory meetings (USDA APHIS conference calls, Nursery Pest Advisory Task Force meetings, Board of Forestry Meetings, COMTF Executive Committee meeting).

Tribal Liaison:

Maintained communication with tribal communities, and provided new resources through the online Tribal Resources and Native Plants web page. We also did outreach to advertise this new tool at events around the state (California Indian Fair for Partnerships in Research at CSU Chico, November 1-2; California Indian Day at UC Berkeley, September 26). Continued assisting north coast tribes in their water monitoring work (Hoopa and Yurok Tribes, monthly, ongoing).

Publications and documents:

Beyond regular updates and revisions to existing publications, a number of new documents and publications were created and distributed in 2008 to assist with outreach messages. Highlights include:

- the 2007 Year-end Summary Report;
- 2008 Year-End Summary Report;
- 2008 Wildland Training Sessions Useful Links;
- Chapter 3 of SOD Literature Summary (The Disease Cycle);
- “Understanding & Managing the Interactions between Fire & Sudden Oak Death: Help Combat Fires Fueled by this Disease”;
- Sudden Oak Death article for the California Forest Pest Council’s 2008 Pest Conditions Report;
- and the CA Nursery Training CD.

In addition, we also provided review and revisions to: a CDF/USDA-FS Fire Mitigation Document; a CA Management Plan Outline; and the SOD information on Wikipedia.

Informational and material support provided:

We supplied brochures and other handouts to more than 20 groups and events.

Media and Legislative support:

Over 25 separate media contacts were made in 2008, along with 13 News Advisories and Press Releases for all COMTF events. In addition, significant work was done in creating and distributing SOD technical materials (briefing paper, 2007 Significant Event doc., and Garbelotto press release) to elected officials at County, State, and Federal levels.

Research assistance & coordination:

We provided regular coordination, collaboration, and assistance to research projects around the state, but mostly focused in the north coast region (Humboldt County Department of Agriculture, USDA-APHIS, CDFG, USDA-Forest Service, UC Davis, Humboldt State University, UC Berkeley, Oregon State University, California State Parks, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture, United Kingdom's DEFRA agency, and Oregon Department of Forestry). Additionally, we arranged and accompanied researchers from Imperial College, London, on social science interviews and field visits in OR and CA. We also participated in disease monitoring throughout various counties (Marin, San Francisco, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte). Finally, COMTF staff also conducted field work for Humboldt County forest treatment trials.