



CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE

Mission Statement

The California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) is a volunteer coalition of research/educational institutions, public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private interests. Its primary purpose is to coordinate a comprehensive and unified program of research, management, monitoring, education, and public policy addressing elevated levels of oak mortality in California resulting from *Phytophthora ramorum*, cause of Sudden Oak Death and other diseases.

The Task Force was formed in August 2000 by joining two emerging efforts to address Sudden Oak Death statewide: 1) a resolution of the California Forest Pest Council (CFPC) and 2) an initiative from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). The Task Force is overseen by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Resources Agency. It is also a task force of the California Forest Pest Council.

Goals

The Task Force goals are to:

- 1) Minimize the impacts of *Phytophthora ramorum* on natural, agricultural, and human communities, and
- 2) Coordinate an integrated response by all interested parties to address *Phytophthora ramorum*, as well as serve as liaison to local, state, national, and international groups.

Objectives

The objectives of the Task Force are to:

- 1) Provide technical assistance and public education to individuals and communities affected and threatened by *Phytophthora ramorum* (Sudden Oak Death), helping to empower them to maintain a safe and healthy environment;
- 2) Develop and maintain an adaptive integrated pest management program for *Phytophthora ramorum*;
- 3) Provide information and education to interested parties relating to causes, treatments, and consequences of *Phytophthora ramorum*;
- 4) Coordinate efforts to prevent the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum*; and
- 5) Identify the needs for, and potential sources of, funding, staffing, and other resources for addressing *Phytophthora ramorum*.