



CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE AUGUST 2001 REPORT

NEW CHAIR OF THE COMTF

The California Oak Mortality Task Force is one year old! We thank **Susan Frankel** of the USDA Forest Service for serving as Chairperson over the past year. COMTF Board Member **Mark Stanley** will serve as chairperson for our second year.

Mark, a Registered Professional Forester since 1976, is Assistant Deputy Director for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. He has been with the Department for 28 years, spending 17 years in a utilization program. He now oversees state forests and the forest health, vegetation management, forest improvement, and urban forestry programs. In his role at CDF, Mark will be responsible for administering the recent money allocated by Governor Davis in California 2001-2002 budget.

Susan Frankel will remain on the Board and continue to assist in our efforts to address Sudden Oak Death in California.

DISTRIBUTION

Sudden Oak Death has been confirmed in **Brookings, Oregon**, a small town in the southwestern corner of the state. Nine areas of dispersed patches of dead tanoak, indicating symptoms of Sudden Oak Death, were picked up in a recent aerial survey. Ground surveys and lab tests have since been conducted which confirmed *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen which causes Sudden Oak Death, was present at four of the sites. The infested areas, although reported in the press as far away from any roads or developed areas, appear to be near some roadways and a gravel pit. Oregon has announced plans to eradicate the disease. A public forum will be held in Brookings on August 21st to describe the location of the find and future plans. Samples from the remaining five sites are still being tested.

QUARANTINE

Effective August 16 South Korea will impose a quarantine on oak products from California. According to a July 27, press release, Sudden Oak Death has not yet been detected in Korea's oaks, a species that comprises 26% of the countries forests.

United States International Trade Commission data indicates that oak exports from California custom districts - San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego - to Korea last year totalled \$935, 000, or 1.87% of California's exports of oak commodities to all destinations. Figures represent export of commodities captured in six categories that specify oak species. Other oak products may be exported under codes that do not list species.

For detailed information on the categories and exports visit <http://dataweb.usitc.gov>



FUNDING

State - Governor Gray Davis approved \$3.6 million in the 2001- 2002 state budget to address Sudden Oak Death in California. Funds will be administered through the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, with the COMTF serving in an advisory capacity only. The actual breakdown of the distribution will follow the categories outlined in AB 62, the assembly bill authored by Legislative members Migden and Wiggins (Coauthors: Alquist, Chan, Jackson, Keeley, Maldonado, Nation, Richman, Salinas, Vargas, Washington, and Wayne) (Coauthors: Senators Kuehl, Ortiz, and Torlakson).

Federal –Senator Barbara Boxer’s efforts to get additional federal funds for Sudden Oak Death have paid-off. President Bush recently signed a Federal Emergency Supplemental Appropriation that included \$1.4 million USD for Sudden Oak Death research efforts. In addition, the USDA-Forest Service committed another \$1 million to the effort. The \$2.4 million total from both sources matches Senator Boxer's full request for funding research, monitoring and management of Sudden Oak Death.

Approximately \$1.9 million USD, to be administered by USDA Forest Service Research Branch, will go to research. The additional \$0.5 million will fund management and monitoring projects.

SAMPLING

The California Department of Food and Agriculture recently released draft sampling guidelines titled the Regulatory Sampling Guidelines for Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*) Infected Foliar and Wood Hosts. This document will be available on www.suddenoakdeath.org once completed.

MARIN COUNTY

Kim Keirnan, who has been acting as the Sudden Oak Death Project Coordinator for Marin County since April, will take on the role of the University of California Cooperative Extension Regional Sudden Oak Death Coordinator. In her new role, Kim will work in cooperation with Nicole Palkovsky and Steven Swain, to coordinate education, research and management efforts among the affected counties. Kim’s focus will remain in Marin County where she will work to develop protocols that may serve as models for other counties.

Kim has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Cornell University, a Master's degree in Environmental Science from Long Island University, and is finishing a thesis for a Master's degree in Forest Biology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She worked for many years with the New York City Parks Department as a naturalist doing public education and working on ecological restoration projects.



MEETINGS

The **California Oak Mortality Task Force Meeting** has been rescheduled for early November. Look for details in future updates.

The **City of Healdsburg** will be hosting a 4 part series on Sudden Oak Death in Sonoma County. The first in the series, is a lecture by Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, Forest Pathologist, UC Berkeley on *Phytophthora ramorum*; an emerging forest pathogen killing California plants. The talk is scheduled for **Thursday August 16** at 7:00 PM at the City of Healdsburg Seniors Center (133 Matheson Street, by downtown square).

The second lecture is scheduled for **Thursday August 30** 7:00 PM at the same location in Sonoma County. Steve Swain, SOD Education Coordinator, UC Cooperative Extension, Santa Rosa will discuss *Phytophthora ramorum* and the resulting Sudden Oak Death in Sonoma County.

All events are free. For more information call the City of Healdsburg 707 431 – 3384 or visit http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/comtf/pages/events_aug.html

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

New symptom information has been posted on www.suddenoakdeath.org. There is now a description and photos for all of the known hosts. The information was taken from a field guide prepared by Susan Frankel for the COMTF July 25, 2001 field tour.

Maggi Kelly, monitoring committee chair and director of CAMFER, has updated the county distribution maps. They can be viewed at <http://camfer.cnr.berkeley.edu/oaks/#County>

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources has posted an online media kit on Sudden Oak Death. To view the kit visit: <http://danr.ucop.edu/news/MediaKit/SOD.html>

The **USDA-FS** has a new pest alert on Sudden Oak Death. The leaflet covers symptoms on all known hosts and indicates that *Phytophthora ramorum* is killing madrone. To view the leaflet go to: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/sod/sod.pdf

The **Canadian Food Inspection Agency**, concerned about the potential impacts of Sudden Oak Death on Canadian resources, has posted a website that describes Sudden Oak Death and links to the COMTF. Information on the importance of other hosts can be found on this site at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/for/sodmsce.shtml>

KUDOS TO THE.....

Greenspace, The Cambria Land Trust, a non-profit group involved in Sudden Oak Death and Pitch Canker education and management. Richard Hawley, director of the organization, is a member of the Education and Biomass committees of the COMTF. He has given many presentations locally on both Pitch Canker and Sudden Oak Death. The organization was recently awarded the National Arbor Day Foundation Project Award for their work with Monterey pine.

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.