



News Release

HUMBOLDT COUNTY SUDDEN OAK DEATH SUPPRESSION EFFORTS RECOGNIZED BY CALIFORNIA BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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SACRAMENTO—The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection today acknowledged a multi-agency* effort to suppress Sudden Oak Death (SOD) in Humboldt County and recognized the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) as well as California State Parks (CSP) and four individuals for their leadership roles. Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented to Yana Valachovic, UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Humboldt/Del Norte Forest Advisor; Chris Lee, Humboldt County SOD Program Coordinator; Jack Marshall, CDF Forest Pathologist; and Hugh Scanlon, CDF Humboldt/Del Norte Battalion Chief. As a result of their collaborative and expedient effort, novel monitoring and management techniques were implemented on 140 infested acres in Humboldt County this year, spanning numerous private parcels as well as state park land. “Thanks to the innovative and tireless efforts of these four individuals working with landowners, progress has been made toward limiting Sudden Oak Death infection levels in Humboldt County. Waiting for research to provide clear management answers is not an option if we are going to gain a foothold on this aggressive disease in areas where it has become established. We are very lucky to have such dedicated people working to protect California’s forests,” said Mark Stanley, California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) Chairman.

The largest SOD landscape treatment to date in California, this project was intended to suppress and contain the virulent pathogen known to cause SOD (*Phytophthora ramorum*), as well as serve as a landscape-scale research effort, monitoring treatment sites to evaluate their efficacy for future responses. The four sites were treated between January and November 2006, and focused on the perimeters of the County’s known infested area. Project funding, administered by the Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council and the Institute of Sustainable

* BLM, Cal Trans, California Department of Fish and Game, CDF, CDF Humboldt/Del Norte Unit, California Department of Pesticide Regulation, CSP, Non-Industrial Private Foresters, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council/Institute for Sustainable Forestry, UCCE Humboldt/Del Norte, USDA FS

Forestry was provided by the USDA Forest Service (USDA FS) State and Private Forestry, CDF's Forest Improvement Program and Vegetation Management Program, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Sudden Oak Death was first found in the Redway area of Humboldt County in 2002. Currently there are 14 California counties with *P. ramorum*-infested forests, as well as one county in southwest Oregon. To date, more than a million oaks and tanoaks have been killed by SOD in California, and at least another million are currently infected.

For more information, contact Katie Palmieri, COMTF Public Information Officer, at (510) 847-5482 or go to the COMTF website at: www.suddenoakdeath.org.

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