

Fourteen Years of Sudden Oak Death Management, Monitoring, and Education in the North Coast of California

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Since 2002 UCCE Humboldt-Del Norte (UCCE) has been coordinating a sudden oak death management, monitoring, and education program throughout the north coast of California. Sudden oak death is caused by the invasive plant pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum* that can be detected in the plant tissues of over 100 susceptible hosts, as well as in soil and waterways.

Some of the largest sudden oak death wildland management studies are located in the North Coast. The results of these studies are used to inform multi-stakeholder management discussions and decisions, and provide support for management activities geared towards slowing disease spread and minimizing impacts. The goal is to help these stakeholders effectively manage forest resources for ecological, cultural, aesthetic, and economic values.

To help track the movement of the pathogen, UCCE collaborates with the UC Davis Plant Pathology Rizzo Lab to coordinate a stream detection program in the North Coast and relies on annual mortality data from the USDA Forest Service Aerial Pest Detection program to conduct ground surveys throughout Humboldt, Del Norte, and parts of Mendocino and Trinity counties. UCCE also provides the bulk of diagnostic lab testing for *P. ramorum* in the North Coast.

Education and outreach have been paramount to the success of UCCE's sudden oak death program. One of the goals of these efforts is to enlist public and professional assistance in tracking disease spread. This has led to the formation of a trained group of engaged participants who regularly report suspect trees and submit samples for disease confirmation, thereby aiding in disease detection as well as broader management activities.