



NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BEGINS WITH FLC

Melinda Fleming, Forest Landowners new Executive Director, says she expects to be able to meet the challenges of her new role with enthusiasm and energy. Education about the wise, multiple use of all natural resources, especially forest land, is a passion for her. And, Education, is a key word in her vocabulary and background.

Melinda was born in Hoopa, California. She was the fifth child of two educators, and followed in their footsteps after graduating from California State University, Stanislaus and getting her teaching credential from University of the Pacific, Stockton. Melinda taught high school at Sonora High in Sonora, California, and at Summerville High in Tuolumne, California. Her expertise was English and journalism, but she later went back to school to get a Reading Credential to work with remedial students in language acquisition. Melinda has also worked in the publishing field.

In 1977, Melinda married her husband, Ken Fleming, a forester with then Fibreboard, based in Standard, California at the Pickering Mill facility. Fibreboard was purchased by Louisiana Pacific, then by Sierra Pacific Industries. Ken is a silviculturalist for the company's Sonora Division. Melinda and Ken have three grown children, and six grandchildren.

"Exposed to tree-farming for nearly 30 years, vicariously through my husband, has taught me many things. First, farming of any sort is hard, back-breaking work. Second, tree farming is more politically charged than any other type of farming. There are so many restrictions and guidelines, constantly changing and being added to, which requires a tree farmer to constantly evolve. It isn't a lifestyle for everyone, especially for those who resist change. Third, I learned that the wood products industries are the backbone of this nation. They are also often the most maligned and misunderstood of industries. When I visit seedling nurseries and see the vast acres of healthy seedlings, when I look at the statistics regarding the use of wood products in our nation, and when I see the catastrophic wildfires that destroy thousands of acres of potential harvest, I can't help but be convinced that what I do as a representative of those who work with natural resources is my best work yet. The benefit from sustainable natural resource practices affects all of us. I'm delighted that the work I do can help others understand this."

Melinda works out of her office in Sonora, California. She can be contacted at her current email address: forestlandowners@sbcglobal.net or by calling (209) 352-8012. Please feel free to call or email anytime for assistance.

CALIFORNIA TREE FARM COMMITTEE

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California Tree Farm News

FOREST LANDOWNERS OF CALIFORNIA

Receiving the Tree Farmer Newsletter Electronically

Some Tree Farmers and Inspectors have expressed the idea of receiving the Tree Farmer Newsletter electronically to those who would like to use that option. Beginning with the Spring newsletter, I will employ that option. So if I do not hear from you, the newsletter will be mailed as usual. If you want the newsletter via the computer, please send your e-mail address to: lake1777@pacbell.net.



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California Tree Farm News

Dedicated to providing useful information to Tree Farmers and family forest owners.

SUDDEN OAK DEATH

By Maralyn Renner, Senior Botanist and
Domenic Borgio, PCA and Former Nursery Manager

What is Sudden Oak Death?

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is a disease caused by the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, a fungus-like organism. Since the mid 1990s, *P. ramorum* has caused substantial mortality in tanoak trees and several true oak tree species (coast live oak, California black oak, Shreve oak, and canyon live oak), as well as twig and foliar diseases in numerous other plant species, including California bay laurel, Douglas-fir, and coast redwood. According to the California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF), a non-profit organization that brings together public agencies, other nonprofit organizations and private interests, SOD can have devastating effects in the wildlands where it occurs and has had substantial impacts on the nursery industry internationally. Symptoms resemble those caused by other, less virulent pathogens, so positive identification of SOD requires analysis of symptom-bearing tissue in a plant pathogen laboratory.

A Brief History of the Outbreak and Spread of Sudden Oak Death

P. ramorum was first found in coastal California forests and woodlands when large numbers of tanoaks were observed to be dying in Marin and Santa Cruz Counties. The causal agent, *P. ramorum*, a previously unknown forest pathogen, was identified in 2000. In 2001, University of California researchers found that the organism infected coast redwood and Douglas-fir, when they isolated the *P. ramorum* from needles and branches, and grand fir was added to the list in 2003. Currently, there are more than 30 wildland host species known from California forests (confirmed hosts will spread the disease), and about 20 associate species which get infected and show symptoms but for which final testing has not been completed. The disease is close to entering San Luis Obispo County in

the south, and is spreading northward in Humboldt County. The eastern boundary appears to follow the higher humidity associated with summer fog.

Although it was discovered in European nurseries in the mid 1990's, it wasn't recovered from plants in California nurseries until 2001. By 2003, the pathogen was detected in California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia nurseries.



Sudden Oak Death in southern Humboldt County.

Why is there Such Concern over This Disease?

P. ramorum has caused outbreaks of Sudden Oak Death in 14 coastal California counties and Curry County, Oregon, killing over a million native oak and tanoak trees. Besides the distressing visual effect of the dead trees, this widespread loss has created an increased fuel load that could result in devastating wildfire. Dead trees are also a hazard on hiking trails and roads, from falling limbs and windthrow, and consequently public agencies have had to close campgrounds and remove dead trees in parks, near roads, and in residential areas.

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SUDDEN OAK DEATH

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The spores of the pathogen are carried in soil and water. Disease-free rhododendron leaves can be suspended in stream waters and if the pathogen is in the watershed upstream, the disease will show up on the leaves. Contaminated soil carried on vehicle tires and on boots can carry the organism to previously disease-free areas.

The pathogen is called ramorum blight when it infects the leaves and twigs of plants, such as blueblossom, false Solomon's seal, and wood rose in forests, and rhododendrons, camellias and many other plants in nurseries, which can serve as vectors for pathogen dispersal. Infected landscape plants must be destroyed to prevent spread of the disease, according to the USDA quarantine protocol for residential or commercial landscapes. The potential for dispersal of infected plants from nurseries is of international concern, and many states and countries are prohibiting import/export of host plants from specific nurseries, counties, and states. Container nurseries with confirmed *P. ramorum* must destroy infected plants and follow rigid quarantine protocols.

According to COMTF, possible ecological threats include a change in species composition in infested forests and therefore, in ecosystem functioning; loss of food sources for wildlife; a change in fire frequency or intensity; and decreased water quality due to an increase in exposed soil surfaces.



Typical leaf spot symptoms on California bay laurel

What are the Symptoms?

An early symptom on oaks and tanoak may be "bleeding" of thick reddish sap from the bark, usually within ten

feet of the ground. Underneath the bleeding is a canker with dark patches of infected tissue surrounded by healthy tissue. Once leaves begin to turn yellow and brown, the entire tree may die within a few months (thus is sudden oak death). In other hosts, the primary symptoms are leaf spot and twig die-back. Laboratory culture of *P. ramorum* is needed to confirm the diagnosis of SOD. For diagnostic assistance, please contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner or University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE).



Weeping sap on a young tanoak tree. Diseased tissue top, healthy bottom.



How Can I Protect My Trees from SOD?

Good management and specific sanitary practices are your best defense against Sudden Oak Death. The California Oak Mortality Task Force recommends:

- Clean and disinfect all pruning, cutting, and chipping tools with a household disinfectant (such as Lysol, ethanol, or diluted bleach) after pruning host plants.
- Monitor oaks for bleeding symptoms year round. If bleeding symptoms are detected, seek confirmation that



the cause is *Phytophthora ramorum* by contacting your County Agricultural Commissioner or UCCE.

- If you are in an infested county, do not move host material to un-infested areas. If host material must be removed from your property, it should be disposed of at a local landfill or transported to an approved collection facility.

- If you have been in an infested area, clean boots, vehicles, and pets before leaving.

Potentially infected material that consists of small branches or has been chipped can be delivered to a local green power plant that is within your restricted county. There are cogeneration power plants in Fairhaven and Scotia in Humboldt County. Other green-waste fired cogeneration power plants are being planned in other counties.



Brush off boots and spray with a disinfectant.

What if I already have SOD on my property?

Research in California forests has shown that the greatest predictor of *P. ramorum* is the presence of California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*). This species, as well as the oaks and tanoak, are the primary species responsible for spread of the disease. Management options may include reducing the abundance of these species in your forests.

To examine this form of management, a multi-agency group conducted an experimental silvicultural treatment of several plots totaling 45 acres in southern Humboldt County in 2006. Prescribed burning was conducted in the fall, and in some plots hand crews cut and piled infected vegetation in the spring prior to burning. We are looking to find a treatment option that is biologically effective, so-

cially acceptable, and financially affordable, by a wide variety of landowners and managers," said Yana Valachovic, UC Cooperative Extension Forest Advisor.

On November 8, 2006 the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection presented Outstanding Achievement Awards to leaders of this multi-agency effort to suppress Sudden Oak Death (SOD) in Humboldt County. Honors went to Yana Valachovic, UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Humboldt/Del Norte Forest Advisor; Chris Lee, Humboldt County SOD Project Coordinator; Jack Marshall, CDF Forest Pathologist; and Hugh Scanlon, CDF Humboldt/Del Norte Battalion Chief.

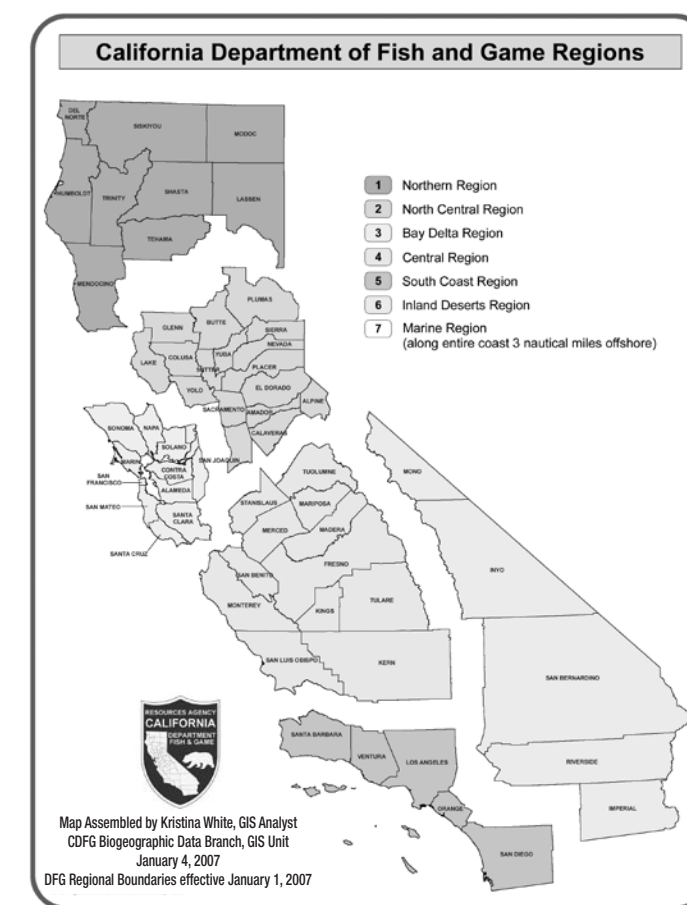
Where can I get more information about Sudden Oak Death?

The California Oak Mortality Task Force has an excellent education campaign to inform residents about this disease. See their web site (www.suddenoakdeath.org). They have also made informative brochures widely available.

The USDA landscape protocol is found at www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorom/pdf_files/crdprotocol.pdf.

All photos by Maralyn Renner, Senior Botanist, The Pacific Lumber Company, Scotia, California.

NEW FOR 2007



CALENDAR YEAR 2006 TIMBER HARVESTING INFORMATION THROUGH NOVEMBER

Note: This information is for Timber Harvesting Plans, Exemptions, Emergencies, and Nonindustrial Timber Management Plans submitted to the Department during a calendar year. The numbers are the cumulative totals for the calendar year as of the specific date

Year Comparison	Santa Rosa		Redding		Riverside		Fresno		Totals	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
THPs Received	215	242	171	192	4	3	46	63	436	500
THPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	57	58	53	43	0	0	4	7	114	108
THPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	214	233	154	177	1	0	41	61	410	471
THPs with NON-Concurrences	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	11
THPs Denied	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
THPs Approved	192	250	152	137	4	2	40	59	388	448
Acreage in Approved THPs	32,101	39,678	81,267	70,590	30	9	8,200	9,830	121,598	120,107

NTMPs Received	29	27	2	10	0	0	4	4	35	41
NTMPs Rejected for Filing (Returned)	16	10	1	3	0	0	2	2	19	15
NTMPs Pre-Harvest Inspections	23	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	29	0
NTMPs with NON-Concurrences	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
NTMPs Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTMPs Approved	25	16	1	9	0	0	4	3	30	28
NTMPs Approved Acres	5,464	4,920	592	2,958	0	0	949	1,091	7,005	8,969
NTMP Notice of Timber Operations Received	145	141	24	20	0	0	15	14	184	175

Exemption Notices Received	609	445	1272	1258	21	6	586	562	2,488	2,271
Emergency Notices Received	12	3	50	43	3	9	8	62	73	117

Exemption Types Received 2006	< 3 Acre Conversions	Fire Hazard	Fuel Hazard	Slash Removal	Other Exemp	Rec'd 2006
Santa Rosa	72	261	1	0	275	609
Redding	323	454	9	2	484	1272
Riverside	3	14	3	0	1	21
Fresno	250	213	1	0	122	586

Emergency Types Received 2006	Fire	Fuel Hazard	Insect	Wind	Other Emerg	Rec'd 2006
Santa Rosa	2	0	0	9	1	12
Redding	24	10	3	11	2	50
Riverside	0	2	1	0	0	3
Fresno	1	1	4	1	1	8