

Aerial Detection Survey – Update, August 1st, 2012

Background: Annual aerial detection surveys for tree injury and mortality have been conducted in California since 1994. This is an update of survey status for the 2012 survey season for August 1st, 2012.

Objective: Detect and map tree mortality and damage in California / USFS Region 5.

Surveyors: Z. Heath, B. Oblinger and T. Coleman

Dates: July 30 to August 1st, 2012.

Methodology: Recently dead or injured trees (trees still retaining dead foliage) were mapped visually by surveyors using digital aerial sketch-mapping systems flying in a light fixed-wing aircraft approximately 1,000 feet above ground level. Surveyors record the number and species of affected trees and type of damage (mortality, defoliation, branch flagging) at each mapped location.

Details:

- Over 1,900 miles were flown, covering over 4.9 million acres over the Angeles, Cleveland and San Bernardino National Forests, as well as portions of the Los Padres, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests (Figure 1). The Tahachapi Range was also covered, as well as large areas of BLM and tribal lands.
- Oak mortality related to gold-spotted oak borer was the primary disturbance mapped on the Cleveland National Forest. Mortality in both black oak and coast live oak were mapped, similar in intensity and range to last year.
- Jeffrey and pinyon pine mortality made up the majority of disturbance mapped on the San Bernardino N.F.
- Black oak defoliation was mapped around Lake Arrowhead.
- Pine mortality within the perimeter of the Station fire of 2009 was the main disturbance mapped on the Angeles N.F. (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Flown area and mapped mortality

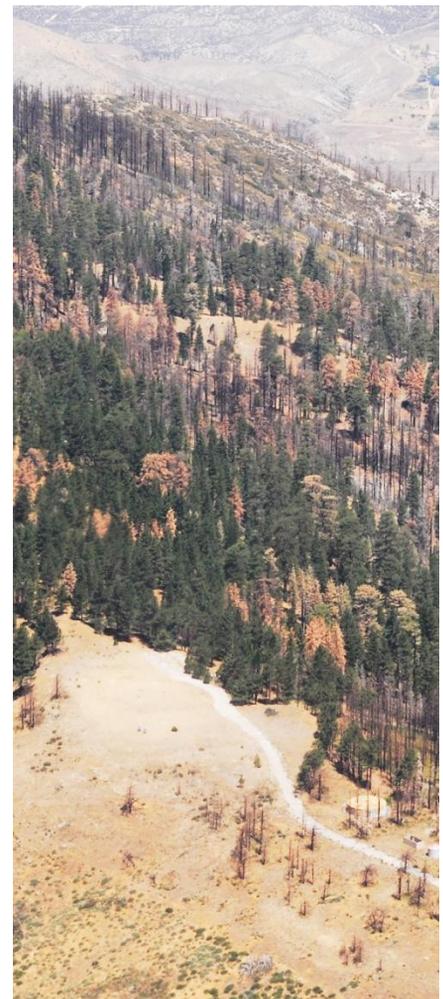


Figure 2. Pine mortality within the Station Fire of 2009.

Direct questions pertaining to this report to Zachary Heath (email: zheath@fs.fed.us phone: 530-759-1751). Report Date Aug 3rd, 2012.