

Aerial Detection Survey – Update, September 28th, 2013

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 2013 season.

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

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Dates: Sept 26th to 28th, 2013

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:

- Portions of the Klamath, Shasta-Trinity and Mendocino National Forests were flown, as well as parts of Humboldt and Mendocino Counties outside the National Forests. See Figure 1.
- Several large areas of ponderosa pine mortality were mapped on the Shasta-Trinity N.F., northeast of Trinity Lake.
- Low levels of true fir and Douglas-fir mortality were mapped on the Klamath National Forest.
- In northern and central Humboldt County, large areas were mapped to bear damage in Douglas-fir and redwood plantations.
- In southern Humboldt, sudden oak death was the primary damage agent. Although the disease has spread and intensified in many areas of the County, fewer acres with mortality were mapped this year than last year. Tanoak mortality is visible very close to the Six Rivers National Forest and the Trinity County line at the eastern extent of the disease, as well as on the Van Duzen River at the northern end. See Figure 2.
- In Mendocino County, west of the National Forest, light mortality due to flat-headed fir borer and fir engraver was observed.
- On the Mendocino National Forest, white fir, Douglas-fir, knobcone, ponderosa and gray pine mortality was all commonly mapped. See Figure 3.

Figure 1. Flown area and mapped tree mortality and damage.

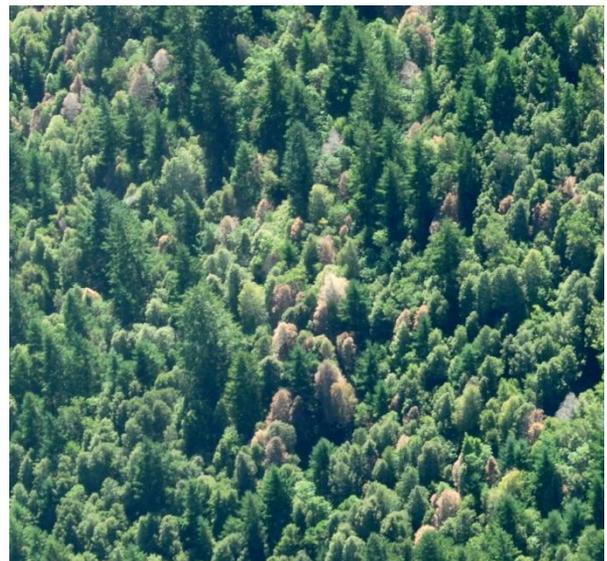
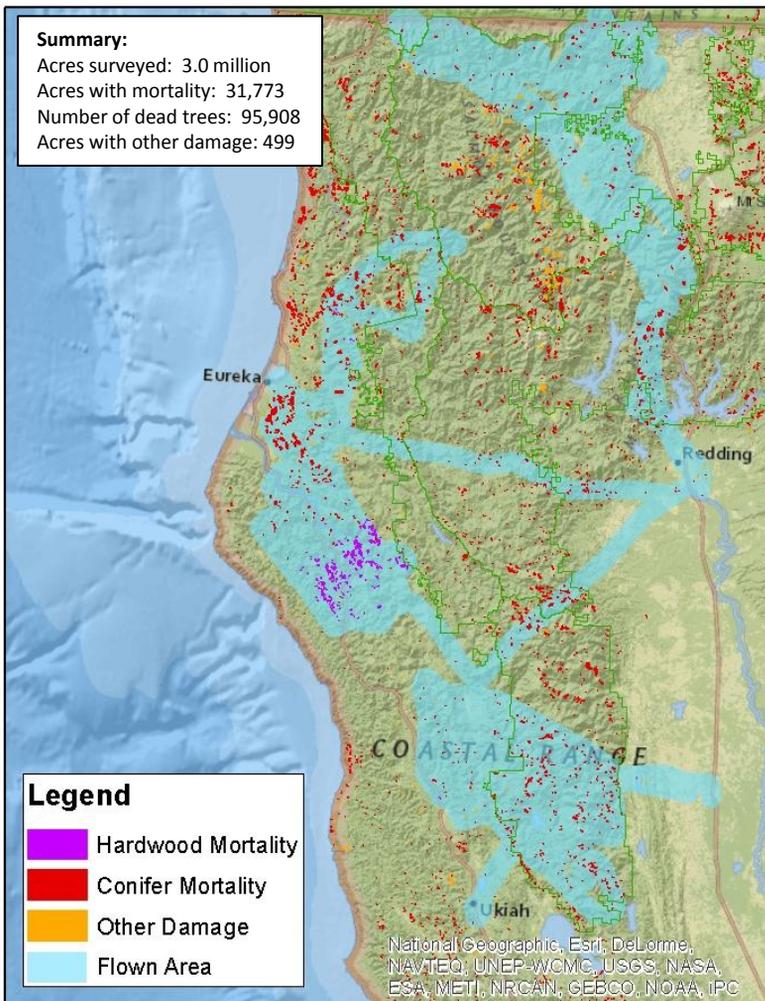


Figure 2. Tanoak mortality west of the Six Rivers National Forest.



Figure 3. Knobcone pine mortality near Goat Mountain on the Mendocino National Forest.

Direct questions pertaining to this report to Zachary Heath (email: zheath@fs.fed.us phone: 530-759- 1751). Report Date Oct 22, 2013.

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