National Detection Surveys for Sudden Oak Death

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Abstract.—The Forest Health Monitoring program, a partnership of Federal and State forest management agencies, has developed and tested protocols for identifying and surveying forest ecosystems that may be vulnerable to invasion by *Phytophthora ramorum*, the cause of Sudden Oak Death in California and Oregon. This detection survey is targeting areas outside the currently known distribution of *P. ramorum*, including eastern oak forests. Sampling intensity is based on a risk map that identifies areas at high, moderate, and low risks of invasion. Pilot tests of the detection survey were conducted in seven States in 2003. In early 2004, regulatory officials discovered that nursery plants from nurseries infested with *P. ramorum* were shipped throughout the United States. This discovery resulted in a major expansion and refocusing of detection surveys for *P. ramorum* during the spring of 2004. Surveys were conducted in 36 States with emphasis on forests near nurseries that received *P. ramorum*-infested plants. The cumulative number of locations surveyed during the 2 years now exceeds 1,100, with more than 5,600 samples submitted for laboratory analysis for *P. ramorum.* The pathogen was confirmed in only two locations in San Francisco County, CA. This survey indicates that *P. ramorum* is not widely established on native vegetation in the United States outside the known distribution in California and Oregon. Detection surveys will continue in 2005.

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