

FOREST

PEST

CONDITIONS

IN CALIFORNIA 2003



June 2003



July 2003



September 2003

THE CALIFORNIA FOREST PEST COUNCIL

The California Forest Pest Council, a 501(3)c non-profit organization, was founded in 1951 as the California Forest Pest Control Action Council. Membership is open to public and private forest managers, foresters, silviculturists, entomologists, pathologists, biologists and others interested in the protection of forests from damage caused by biotic and abiotic agents. The Council's objective is to establish, maintain, and improve communication among individuals who are concerned with these issues. This objective is accomplished by five actions:

1. Coordinate the detection, reporting and compilation of pest damage, primarily forest insects, diseases and animal damage.
2. Evaluate pest conditions, primarily those of forest insects, diseases and animal damage.
3. Make recommendations on pest control to forest management, protection agencies and forest landowners.
4. Review policy, legal and research aspects of forest pest management and submit recommendations thereon to appropriate authorities.
5. Foster educational work on forest pests and forest health.

The California Board of Forestry recognizes the Council as an advisory body in forest health protection, maintenance, and enhancement issues. The Council is a participating member in the Western Forest Pest Committee of the Western Forestry and Conservation Association.

This report, *Forest Pest Conditions in California 2003*, is compiled for public and private forest land managers and other interested parties to keep them informed of conditions on forested land in California, and as a historical record of forest insect and disease trends and occurrences. The report is based largely on information provided by three sources: (1) information generated by Forest Health Protection, Pacific Southwest Region, USDA Forest Service, while making formal detection surveys and biological evaluations, (2) reports and surveys of conditions on private lands provided by personnel of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and (3) the statewide Cooperative Forest Insect and Disease Survey, in which federal, state, and private foresters and land managers participate.

This report was prepared by Forest Health Protection, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region in cooperation with other member organizations of the Council, published by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and distributed by the two agencies. The report is available in color at the following website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/spf/publications/fhp-doc.shtml>.

Cover: Progression of pine mortality in the Twin Peaks area of Lake Arrowhead, California, June to September 2003.

FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN CALIFORNIA 2003

ABSTRACT

The important forest insect and disease conditions in California in 2003 are given. Included are bark beetles, defoliators, abiotic injury, dwarf mistletoes, declines; and root, foliage, rust and canker diseases. The section on surveys and evaluations includes summaries of the White Pine Blister Rust Screening Program, detecting vegetation changes in California using satellite imagery, a summary of aerial survey results in California, the cumulative survey of monitoring the abundance of the Douglas-fir tussock moth, and 24 years of tree mortality in eastside pine thinning plots.

Key words: California, forest diseases, forest insects, aerial surveys, tree mortality, change detection.