

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oak Disease Forces Closure Of China Camp Campground

SAN RAFAEL – A popular campground in Marin County has been closed due to the accelerated effects of Sudden Oak Death disease. The disease has weakened native oak trees and created a dangerous situation for campers, California State Parks officials announced today.

Within the past several weeks large limbs and entire trees have fallen without notice due to an infection by the plant pathogen. Officials have closed all 30 campsites at Back Ranch Campground to prevent accident or injury.

Work began earlier this week to take down about 80 oak trees determined to be infected by Sudden Oak Death syndrome. The work will be completed no later than the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend when the campground will be reopened, park officials said.

Park staff may close some day use areas of the park, including multi-use trails, while public safety measures are implemented. Trail users should be alert for closures, avoid fallen trees or limbs and immediately report any problems to a State Park Ranger.

Sudden Oak Death syndrome was first identified in Marin County in 1995. It received its name because it kills seemingly healthy trees quickly. Scientists say, however, that the trees are often inflicted with Sudden Oak Death for years before showing any symptoms.

Eight counties in California, including Marin County, have been identified as within a zone of infestation by Sudden Oak Death syndrome. In those counties, specific regulations govern the transportation and disposal of wood products.

China Camp State Park has 1,640 acres of natural watershed along the shores of San Francisco Bay. Features include extensive intertidal salt marsh, meadow and oak habitats that are home to a variety of wildlife, including deer, squirrels and numerous birds.

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