

April 29, 2020

Spring 2020 Pitch Canker Task Force Meeting (Virtual)

Participants: Ashley Hawkins, Brendan O'Neil, Carter Krewson, Charlie Barnes, Chris Lee, Daniel Bell, Dave Passovoy, Drew Loganbill, Eric Merrill, Fred Schuler, Ginger Haight, Gregory Printy, Jason Carter, Jeff Kaiden, Jerome Barnes, Jill Butler, Jonathan Pangburn, Josh Feinberg, Julie Coombes, Kim Corella, Kirk O'Dwyer, Liz Tant, Lynn Webb, Martin MacKenzie, Matt Greene, Matt Richmond, Matt Terzes, Michael Jones, Nick Affleck, Phil Cannon, Randy Adar, Richard Cobb, Rita Morris, Sara Davis, Steve Jones, Susan Frankel, Suzanne Lang, Terra Fuller, Tim Montgomery, Tiphonie Henningsen, Tom Smith, Tori Norville. (Over 45 people participated in some part of this webinar - meeting.)

Chairperson Kim Corella welcomed everyone to the webinar and vice-chair Richard Cobb requested questions via the interactive Go to Webinar features.

The Pitch Canker Task Force met most recently in 2017 at Pt. Reyes. This meeting had been planned for the Ft. Ross area (Sonoma Coast) but COVID-19 precautions required a change to a virtual format. The group thanks Kim Corella and Chris Lee for organizing this virtual meeting.

Presentations. Five presentations kicked-off the meeting. Please see the posted presentations for more information:

Brendan, O'Neil and Matt Greene – Management Plan for Bishop Pine within California State Parks Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District.

Tori Norville – Surviving Against the Odds: A Silvicultural Approach to Monterey Pine Regeneration and Pitch Canker in the Ano Nuevo Native Stand.

Jason Carter – Infection of the Native California Grass, *Bromus carinatus*, by *Fusarium circinatum*, the Cause of Pitch Canker in Pines.

Matt Terzes – Disease Dynamics in Endemic Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*): The Interacting Roles of Insects, Environment, and Pathogen Incidence on Forest Health and Mortality.

Matt Richmond – Use of fixed-wing plane to acquire color infrared imagery with additional NDVI to identify dead and dying trees on Sea Ranch.

Research Needs and other projects. Following the presentations, several research needs were discussed.

1. *More research on how shore pine reacts to Fusarium circinatum (Fc)* – Chris Lee. Chris noted *Fusarium circinatum* infection on shore pine, *Pinus contorta* ssp. *contorta*, suggesting a need for plots, Koch's postulates and other activities to garner an understanding of this pest/host combination. A graduate student and research funds are needed. Chris Lee offered field support and is very interested in seeing progress in this area. Action is needed right away.

2. Susceptibility of other pines such as ponderosa pine, Monterey, Bishop and coastal knobcone pine - further work on pathogen behavior on these hosts is needed since *Fc* is moving northward.

3. Permanent plots implementation along the Coast starting northward from Salt Point - Ashley Hawkins. Ashley will be working with Phil Cannon and others to set up a network of pitch canker plots

along the CA North Coast, set up at perhaps one plot every 10 miles. Ashley is working with Jeff Kaiden, FS FHP GIS analyst to look at slope, ownership, and the relative amount of summertime low cloud and fog to figure out potential locations. They may set up paired plots and compare spread and impact of *Fc* in thinned and unthinned plots plus areas with and without prescribed burning. Mike Jones, UCCE Mendocino and other counties, expressed interest and has a technician that might be able to assist.

Chris Lee commented that there are many pest problems in the area so care must be taken to determine if *Fc* is causing dieback or other damage in the planned plots - -could also be *Phytophthoras*, western gall rust and other agents.

4. Spore trapping and pitch canker management – Ashley Hawkins. Spore trapping could be used for early detection of *Fc* along the north coast. Would be qualitative not quantitative.

5. Re-surveying previously established plots - Richard Cobb. Monitoring is needed to understand spread and damage and it would be best to coordinate and have one common database to record plot information. Would be good to share with the public (on the PCTF website and elsewhere) how *Fc* forest conditions are changing from year to year.

6. Interaction of *Fc* with *Phytophthora cinnamomi* - Chris Lee. Chris described an area along the Sonoma Coast with a hardpan and changed hydrology with a new crop of Bishop pine that is dying and suffering from a number of pathogens including *Armillaria* and western gall rust. He stressed the need to look at interacting factors and multiple-pests.

7. Chainsaw pruning – can it inadvertently transmit disease? Kim Corella. Kim explained that people are asking whether chainsaw pruning and tree cutting can spread *Fc* or other diseases. Chris Lee noted this is an important topic and more challenging to research than one would think.

Business Meeting

Review of PCTF Mission statement. Goals have not changed much. Mike Jones suggested we post the PCTF Mission, goal and objectives on the PCTF website.

2020 to 2021 priorities - We will add the creation of the north coast plot network as a priority.

Information to be added to PCTF website – Chris Lee and Kim Corella will update the literature on the PCTF website.

Options to add a GIS map of *Fc* distribution were discussed. The Research and Monitoring WG will look into this and check if CAL Invasives or FS FHP has a map that could be linked or posted to the PCTF website.

Mike Jones suggested a story map be added to the PCTF website – easy and interactive.

Kim requested people send her photographs to be added to the PCTF website.

Review of Executive Committee members, Working Groups and At-large members.

Secretary. Susan Frankel is stepping down as PCTF secretary. She nominated Ashley Hawkins (seconded by Kim Corella). Ashley was elected unanimously.

Notes by PCTF Secretary, susan.frankel@usda.gov.

Working group leaders will continue to serve with a few changes. The research and monitoring work group will be merged under the leadership of Chris Lee and Ashley Hawkins.

The education work group will be led by Mike Jones and a TBD vice-chair. Since Mike is new to the group, he requests guidance or suggestions.

Next meeting. The next meeting of the PCTF is tentatively planned for the Sonoma Coast, Salt Point area in spring/summer 2021. It would include the field tour that had to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19 precautions. Also the group could view and discuss progress on the plot network.

4 pm Adjourn