9GA22700 HAMEY WOODS SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS POST-FIRE REDWOOD DEFECT STUDY

Date: August 1, 2023

Principal Investigators: Nadia Hamey, RPF #2788 ; and

Donald Campbell, University of California, Berkeley,

Project Status and Progress Report:

The study is well underway after the first quarter of data collection. Approximately 60 trees were tagged and assessed for burn damage with data regarding the post-fire effects gathered for each tree.

The study locations include an area at San Vicente Redwoods in the Lower Deadman Gulch harvest area Notice of Emergency Timber Operations #1-23EM-00085-SCR, and an area at Swanton Pacific Ranch in the Satellite Stands Unit of the Swanton Pacific Ranch NTMP, #1-07NTMP-020-SCR, NTO #5. Maps are attached. Areas will be thinned this summer and Hamey Woods foresters will track the trees through the scaling process. Following cutting, trees will be bucked and graded with notes and photos to document the decay introduced by the 2020 fire.

We are fortunate to be collaborating with researchers from UCSC in Dr. Greg Gilbert's lab who have added a tomography component to our study. Dr. Gilbert has studied wood-decay fungi in tropical and temperate forests for three decades and directs the UCSC Forest Ecology Research Plot. Doctoral student Liz Rennie brings experience in molecular ecology and disease ecology. Together, we are deploying Sonic tomography (Picus 3) to make a computerized depiction of structural decay versus healthy wood in a subset of the study trees; and Impedance tomography (Treetronic) which reflects moisture content to indicate wetter and drier regions at breast height. Changes in patterns can indicate waterlogging or disruption of the vascular system, often before structural loss is detectable, and readings will be correlated with the post-fire effects and scaling data. Burn damage assessment: Photo Documentation







SPR Redwood Study Tree



SPR Redwood Study Tree



