Update on Sudden Oak Death in Oregon Forests

December 31, 2025

Northern SOD Infestations (Figure 1)

- NEW Infestations between Rogue River and Port Orford
    - In 2025, 51 new infested sites have been detected outside of the 2015 SOD Quarantine.
    - These new detections triggered an immediate expansion of the SOD Emergency Quarantine Boundary. The area has expanded to **289 square miles**.
        - ODF is working closely with landowners affected by the new emergency quarantine boundary and infested sites to prioritize treatments.
        - 7 of the new sites are on USFS lands and are the top priority for 2024 and 2025 treatments.
        - 2 of the new sites are on BLM lands and are the top priority for 2025 treatments.
    - Infected trees from outlier sites were submitted to the Oregon Department of Agriculture and then to USDA APHIS for final confirmation per official protocols.

Stream Baiting (Figure 2)

- 56 stream baits were installed the week of April 24th.
    - Streams in the Myers Creek, Hunter Creek, and Gold Beach areas are not being monitored this year. New streams along the Sixes and Elk rivers were added for increased monitoring of high-priority areas.
    - Stream baits WA-12 and WA-114 will continue to be used as positive control streams for NA1 and EU1, respectively.
- 2025 Final Results:
    - **22 streams** tested positive for *P. ramorum* through plate culture methods. **8 streams** tested positive for *P. ramorum* by PCR. These streams will now be plated to culture the pathogen.
    - Notable positives include all three stream baits in the upper Winchuck area, including Bear Creek, Fourth of July Creek, and East Fork Winchuck River. Five of the new stream baits along the Elk and Sixes rivers have tested positive for PCR and will be monitored closely.

Aerial and Ground-based Detection Surveys (Figure 3)

- ODF contracted with GeoTerra, Inc. to acquire high-resolution imagery for 2025. The imagery was delivered in mid-September, and SOD Foresters have begun the pan-and-scan methodology across the 1021 square miles covered by the imagery.
- USFS and ODF staff completed four helicopter surveys in 2025.
    - January, May, and October flights focused on high priority areas of the Sixes River, Elk River, and Nail Keg (Rogue River area)
- ODF staff completed the annual fixed-wing survey on July 2nd. The GIA was not flown during this survey and will be covered by a pan-and-scanning of the high-resolution imagery.
    - A follow-up helicopter flight was completed on August 14th, and all points identified in the fixed-wing survey were flown over.
- 495 samples have been collected in 2025, of which 170 have been positive for *Phytophthora ramorum.*

Eradication Treatments - 2025 infestations

- In 2025, 54 new infestations have been detected at or beyond the GIA (Figure 3).
- Assuming a 300-600 ft treatment buffer, the 2025 treatment areas total approximately:
    - Private – 44 infestations = 511 ac

    - Bureau of Land Management – 2 infestations = 104 ac
    - State – 3 infestation = 19 ac
    - US Forest Service – 5 infestations = 41 ac
- In 2025, the SOD Program completed treatments on **202 acres**.

2025 Ramorum Log Study

- The objective of this study is to determine the viability or persistence of the pathogen *P. ramorum* in felled tanoak trees.
- In late 2024 and early 2025, 45 infected tanoaks were identified in China Creek and Crew Canyon to be monitored for over twelve months. Of these trees, only 33 were felled in mid-April, followed by two periods of resampling in August and November. The remaining twelve trees were damaged during the unit harvest and, therefore, unsuitable for the study.
- In the fall of 2025, we decided to replicate the effort in wetter conditions, since some trees from the pilot study dried out in the sun, and therefore don't represent winter conditions. In November, an additional 45 infected trees were felled in Myers Creek and Myrtle Creek. These trees will be resampled every three months: in February, May, and August 2026, to determine how long *P. ramorum* persists in logs.

Sudden Oak Death Outreach and Education

- Is the cure worse than the disease? Ecosystem resilience in the face of sudden oak death
    - Dr. Jared LeBoldus presented during the OSU winter Botany and Plant Pathology seminar series.
        - To understand the ecological impacts of SOD on the mixed conifer forests of southwest Oregon, a permanent plot network was established in 2020. The plots encompass healthy tanoak forests, infected tanoak forests, and tanoak forests treated for SOD. Within this 88-plot network, plant demographics, soil characteristics, microbiomes, disease severity, and wildlife use have been monitored using a variety of approaches.

2025 Funding

- State
    - Senate Bill 339 did not make it out of the Joint Committee for Ways and Means for the current Oregon Legislative Session. ODF does not currently have any state funds for SOD treatments on state and private lands.
    - Program managers are assessing current federal grants and agreements to ensure SOD staff can continue survey and monitoring efforts. Treatment funding for state and private lands is limited under the new federal agreement, which requires a 1:1 match of funds.
- Federal
    - The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, was signed on March 15th, 2025.
        - $1.5 million will be allocated to the SOD Program in Oregon and stream baiting in Washington.
        - FS staff are awaiting funds at the Region level to submit new agreement paperwork.

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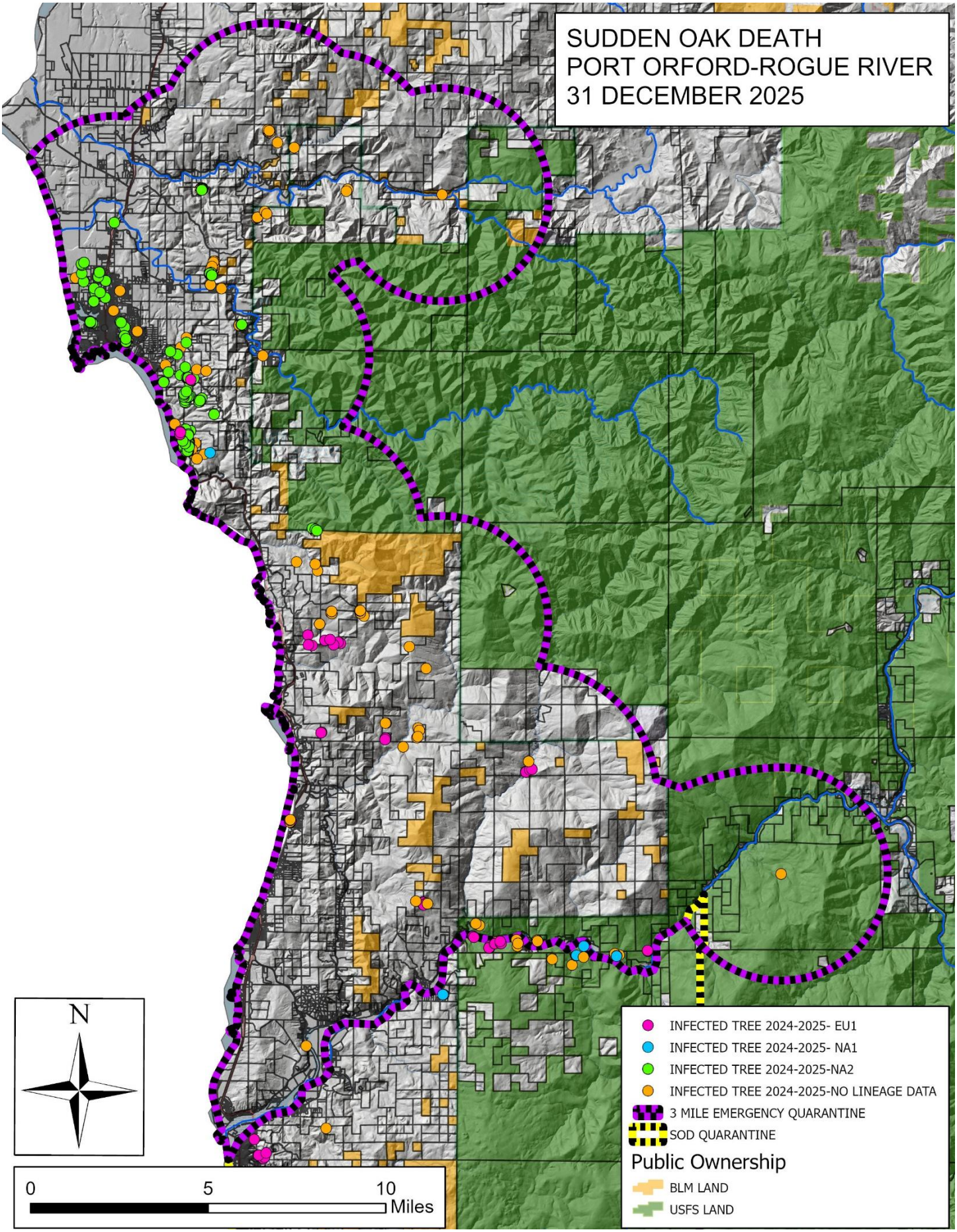

Figure 1. Northern SOD infestations. Treatment buffers are currently set to 300-600 ft radii depending on priority.

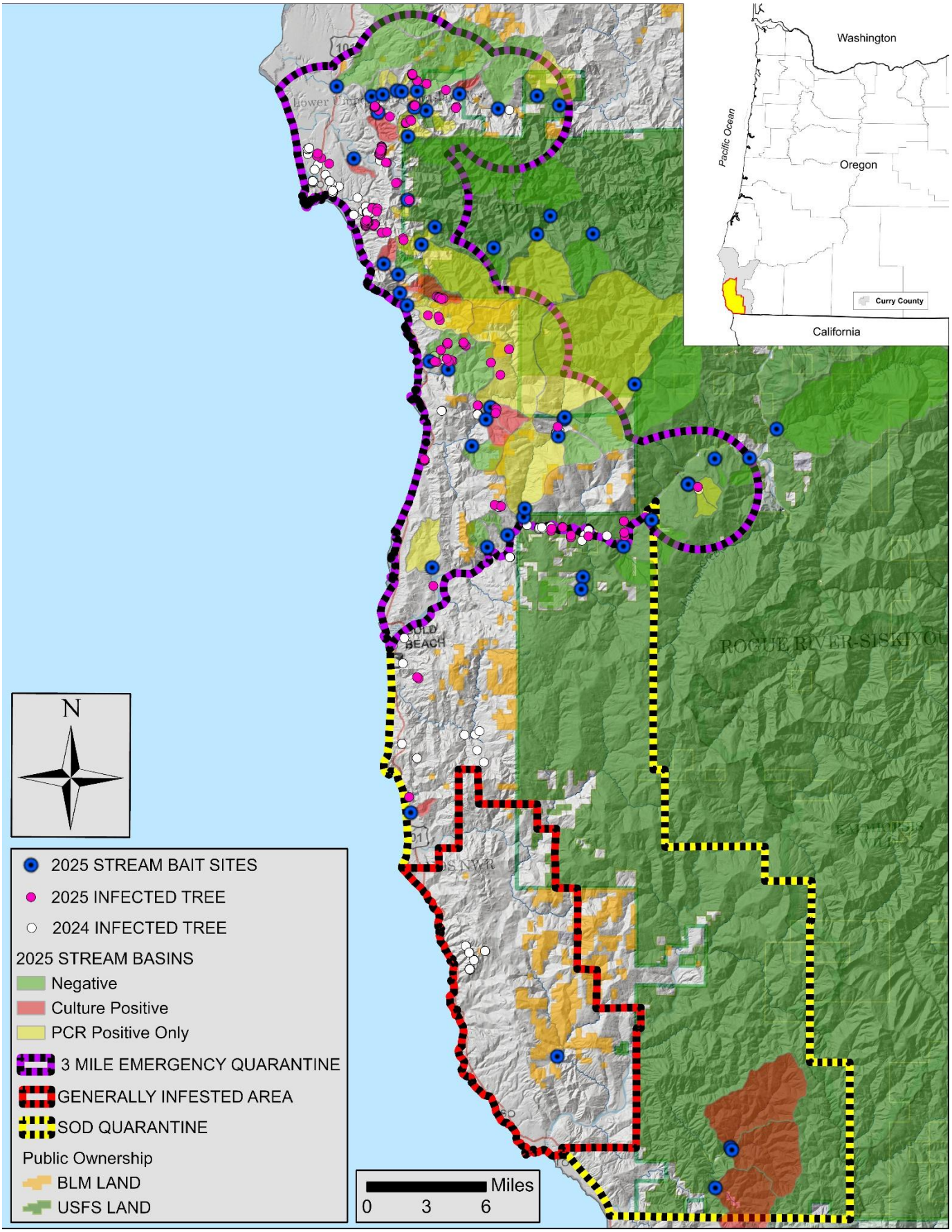

Figure 2. 2025 Stream baiting drainages (55 total). Once sampling commences green or red drainages indicate negative or positive for *P. ramorum,* respectively. Yellow indicates that the drainage tested positive for *P. ramorum* with molecular testing.

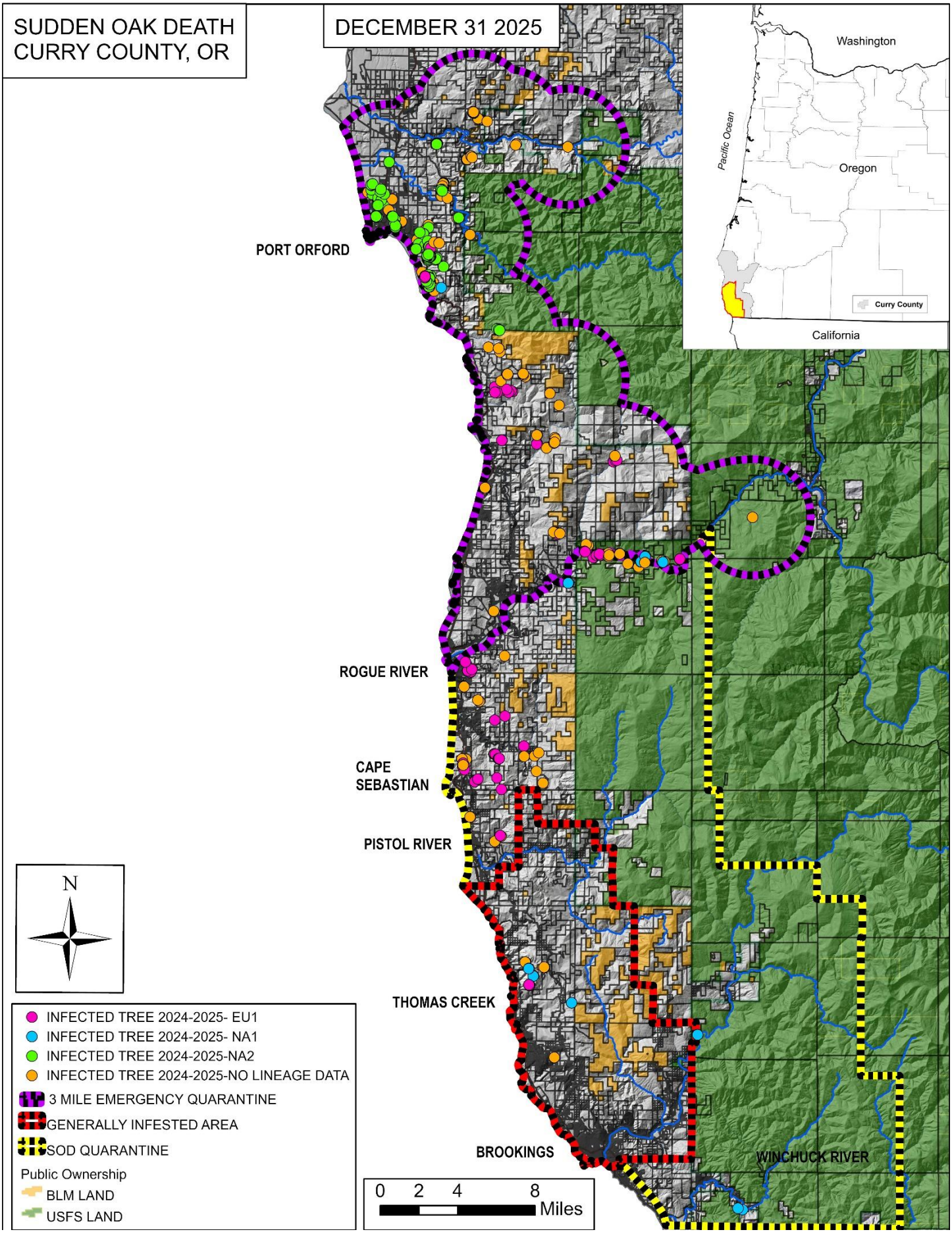

Figure 3. Location of sites infested with *Phytophthora ramorum* in southwest Oregon that were discovered in 2024-2025.