

Update on Sudden Oak Death in Oregon Forests

December 12, 2024

Northern SOD Infestations

- NEW Infestations between Rouge River and Port Orford (Figure 1)
 - In 2024, 15 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 148 square miles.
 - ODF is working closely with landowners affected by the new emergency quarantine boundary and infested sites to prioritize treatments.
 - Three of the new sites are on USFS lands and are top priority for 2024 and 2025 treatments.
 - Infected trees were submitted to the Oregon Department of Agriculture and then onto USDA APHIS for final confirmation per official protocols.
- Humbug Mountain Infestation
 - Since December 2022, 59 samples from the area have tested positive for *P. ramorum*.
 - ODF and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department are working closely to complete treatments. **147 acres** have been completed thus far (up from 53 acres in August 2024).
 - Work has been halted on OPRD lands due to available funding.
 - Treatment work is on-going in the Hubbard Creek drainage and pile burning has begun.
- Port Orford Infestation (Figure 2)
 - Since the initial detection, ODF SOD crews have worked on obtaining permissions from landowners and taking samples within a 2-mile radius of the two Highway 101 infected trees.
 - New detection southeast of 2021 infestation was confirmed in May along Cemetery Loop Rd.
 - This has resulted in 4 new 300ft buffer treatment areas.
 - A tentative 600 ft treatment buffer has been placed around the confirmed positive trees with **406 acres** untreated.
 - ODF has **20 acres** under active treatments within the proposed treatment area.
 - ODF has completed treatment on **411 acres** (up from 347 acres in December 2023).

Stream Baiting (Figure 3)

- 64 streams inside and outside the SOD quarantine area will be monitored in 2024. Stream baiting has concluded for 2024.
 - Stream baits WA-12 and WA-114 will continue to be used as positive control streams for NA1 and EU1 respectfully.
- (Almost) Final Results:
 - **13 streams** tested positive for *P. ramorum* through plate culture methods. **21 streams** tested positive for *P. ramorum* through PCR methods. These streams will now be plated to culture the pathogen
 - Notable positives include a tributary of the Elk River (Bagley Creek) and Upper East Fork Winchuck River. A stream survey will be prioritized for Bagley Creek.

Aerial and Ground-based Detection Surveys (Figure 4)

- ODF contracted with GeoTerra, Inc. to acquire high resolution imagery for 2024. The imagery was delivered at the beginning of October and ODF and USFS staff have started to scan through high priority areas.
- USFS and ODF staff completed both the SOD fixed wing survey and targeted helicopter survey in the beginning of July.
 - 86 dead tanoak were identified during the helicopter survey that will be ground checked by SOD foresters.

- ODF and USFS plan to complete the SOD fixed wing survey in early July. ODF will follow up the fixed wing survey with a targeted helicopter survey.
- 353 samples have been collected in 2024, of which 134 have been positive for *Phytophthora ramorum*.

Eradication Treatments - 2024 infestations

- In 2024, 14 new infestations have been detected at or beyond the GIA (Figure 3).
- Assuming a 300-600 ft treatment buffer, the 2024 treatment areas total approximately:
 - Private – 14 infestations = 319 ac
 - US Forest Service – 3 infestations = 51 ac
- In 2023, the SOD Program completed treatments on **364 acres**.

2023 Sudden Oak Death Legislative Report

- In conjunction with the \$1.7 million General Fund appropriation included in the agency’s budget for FY21-23, the department was directed to produce a detailed report of all department activities related to the containment and eradication of Sudden Oak Death in Oregon to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means by January 30, 2023.
- Per the direction from the Legislature, the report must contain, at a minimum:
 - A comprehensive review of expenditures made by the department and its federal and state partners on containment and eradication activities, detailed discussion of each of the activities, strategies, or actions that includes the amount spent on these items and the efficacy of these items.
 - Identify any impediments that have been encountered by the agency, its federal and state partners, or contractors in achieving the purposes of the activities, strategies, or actions taken to slow or stop the spread of Sudden Oak Death.
 - A strategic plan and a detailed implementation plan for the containment and eradication of Sudden Oak Death by the department for the next two biennia that is based on quantifiable, successful strategies that have been implemented to date.

Proposed Quarantine Expansion New SOD detections outside of SOD Quarantine (Figure 5 and 6)

- Since the start of the SOD Program, the Oregon Department of Agriculture has overseen the expansion of the quarantine boundary to account for the spread of SOD on the landscape. Despite several new infestations being outside the current official SOD Quarantine area, the area is covered under the current ODA SOD rules, which establish quarantine on any area in the state where a SOD infestation occurs (OAR 603-052-1230(2)(d)).
- Given the amount of new detections outside of the 2015 SOD quarantine boundary, SOD Program Staff propose to expand the SOD quarantine and GIA. The new proposed quarantine area is 901 square miles or 45% of the county. The proposed GIA area is 178 square miles.

2024 Funding

- State
 - The appropriation of \$1.7 million for SOD described in [Senate Bill 753](#) has been added to the overall approved ODF agency budget for FY23-25.
- Federal
 - 2024 federal funding through the USFS for the SOD Program is lower than anticipated at \$1.5 million. The final budget for the USFS was set at FY22 funding levels.

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SUDDEN OAK DEATH
PORT ORFORD-ROUGE RIVER
12 DECEMBER 2024

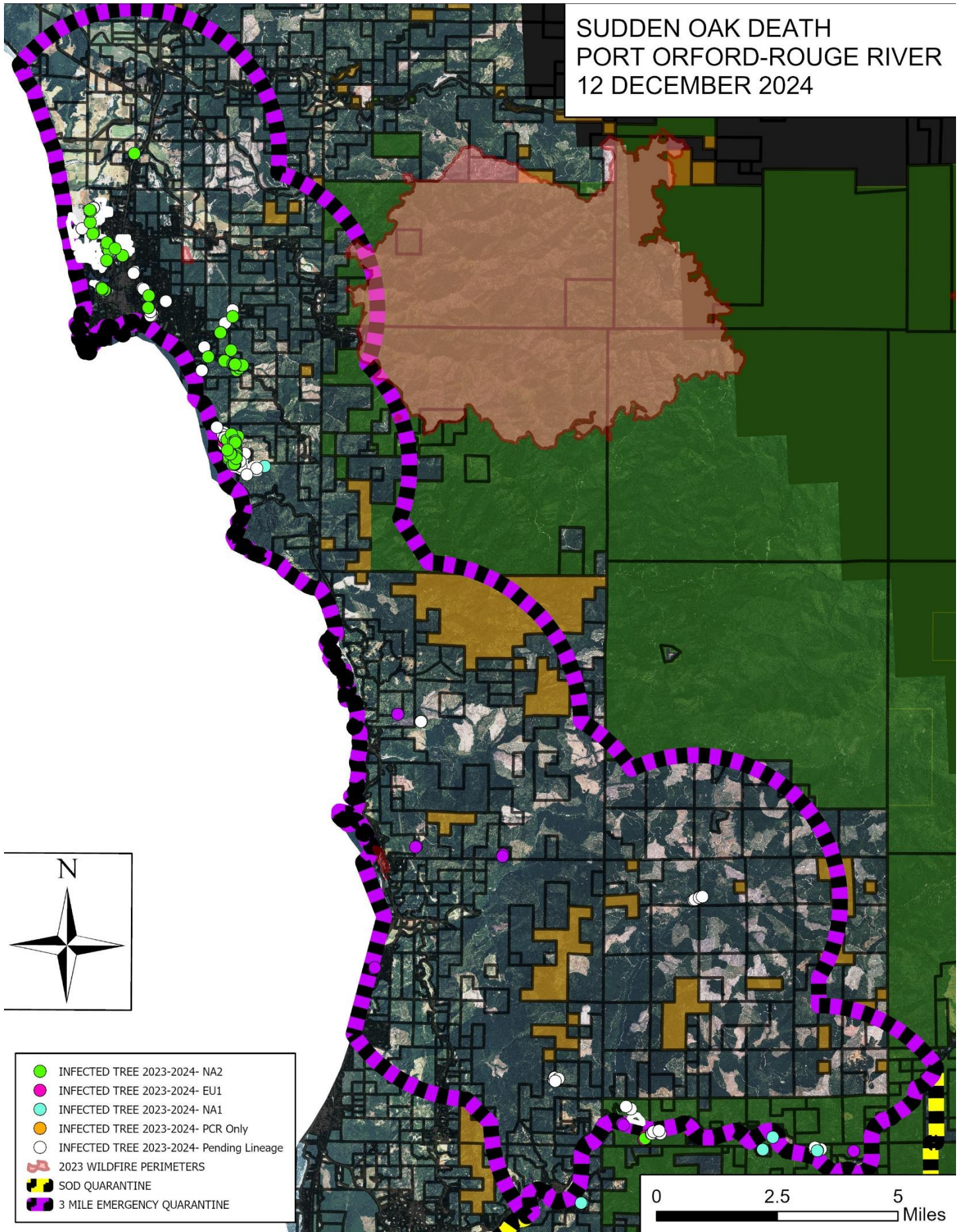


Figure 1. Northern SOD infestations. Treatment buffers are currently set to 300-600 ft radii depending on priority.

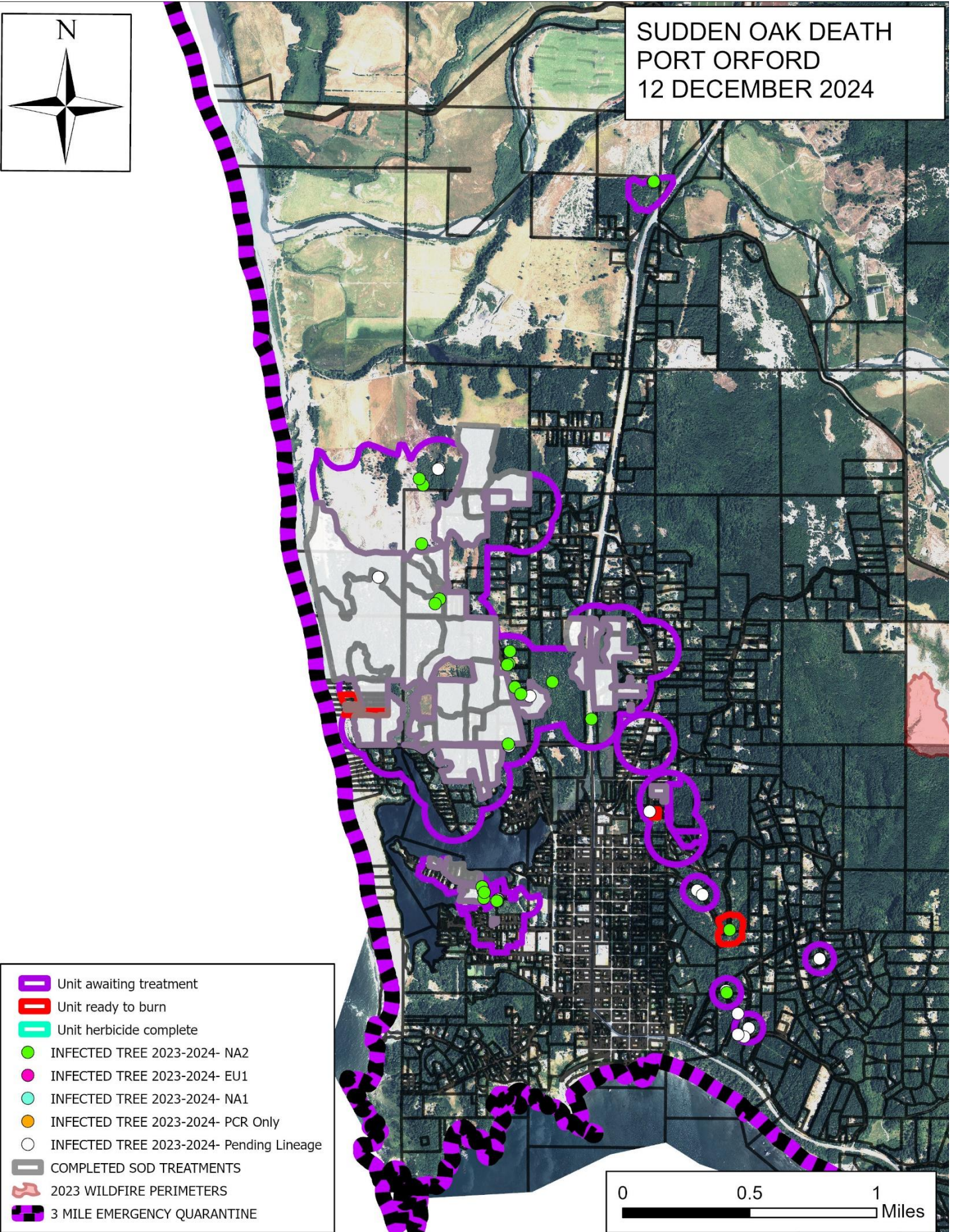


Figure 2. Port Orford SOD infestation. The treatment buffer is currently set to 600 ft radius.

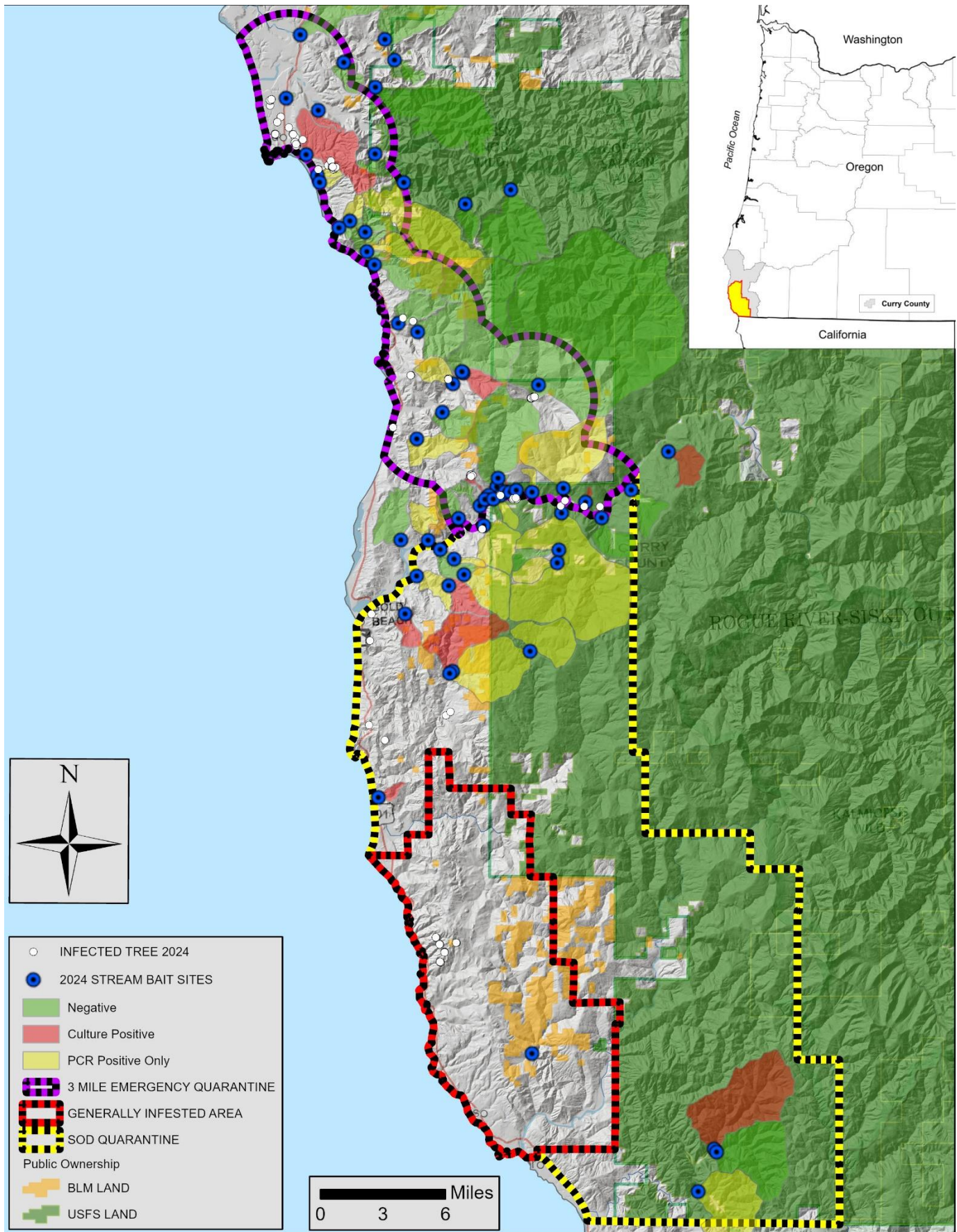


Figure 3. 2024 Stream baiting drainages (64 total). Once sampling commences green or red drainages indicate negative or positive for *P. ramorum*, respectively. Yellow indicates that the drainage tested positive for *P. ramorum* with molecular testing.

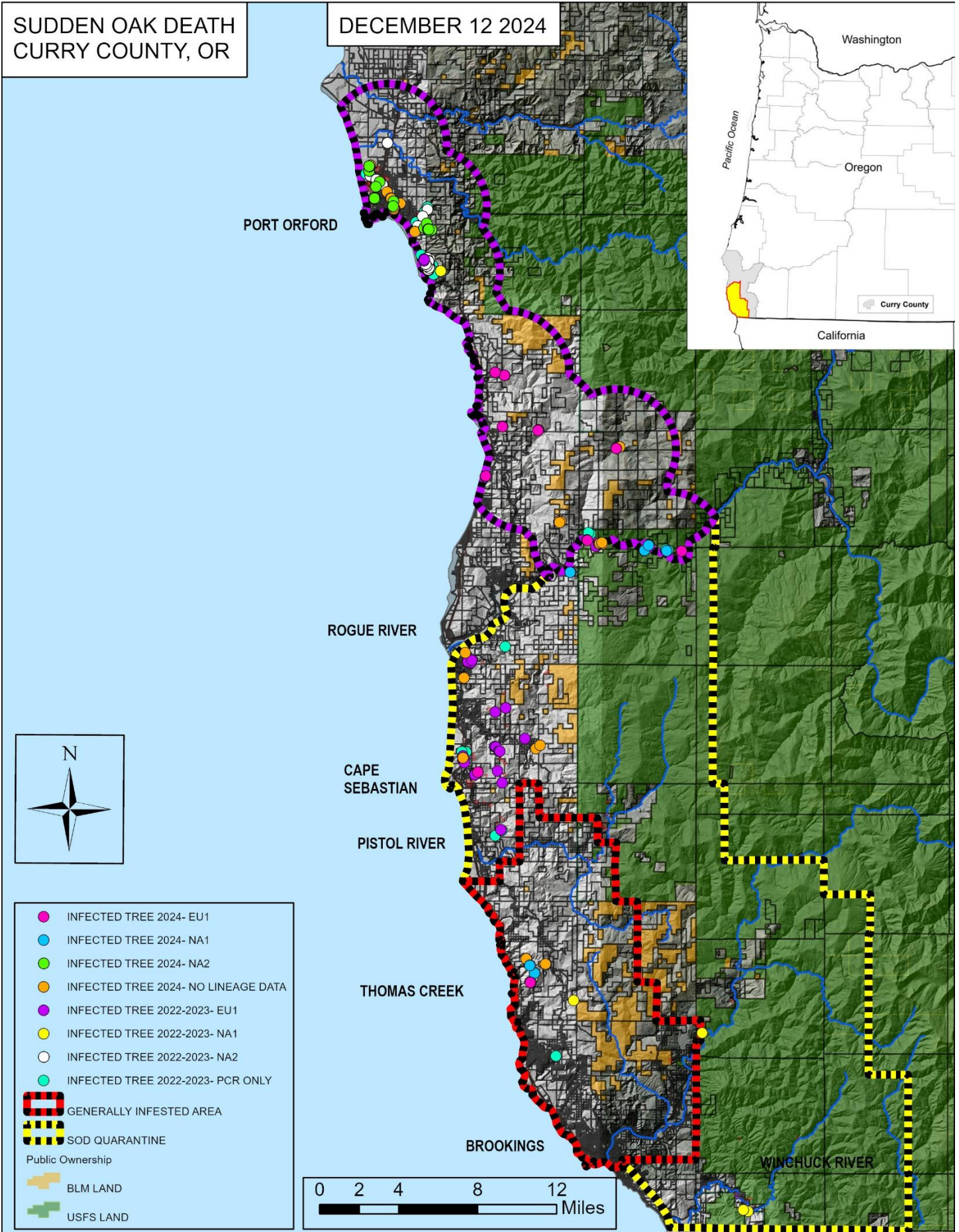


Figure 4. Location of sites infested with *Phytophthora ramorum* in southwest Oregon that were discovered in 2022-2024.

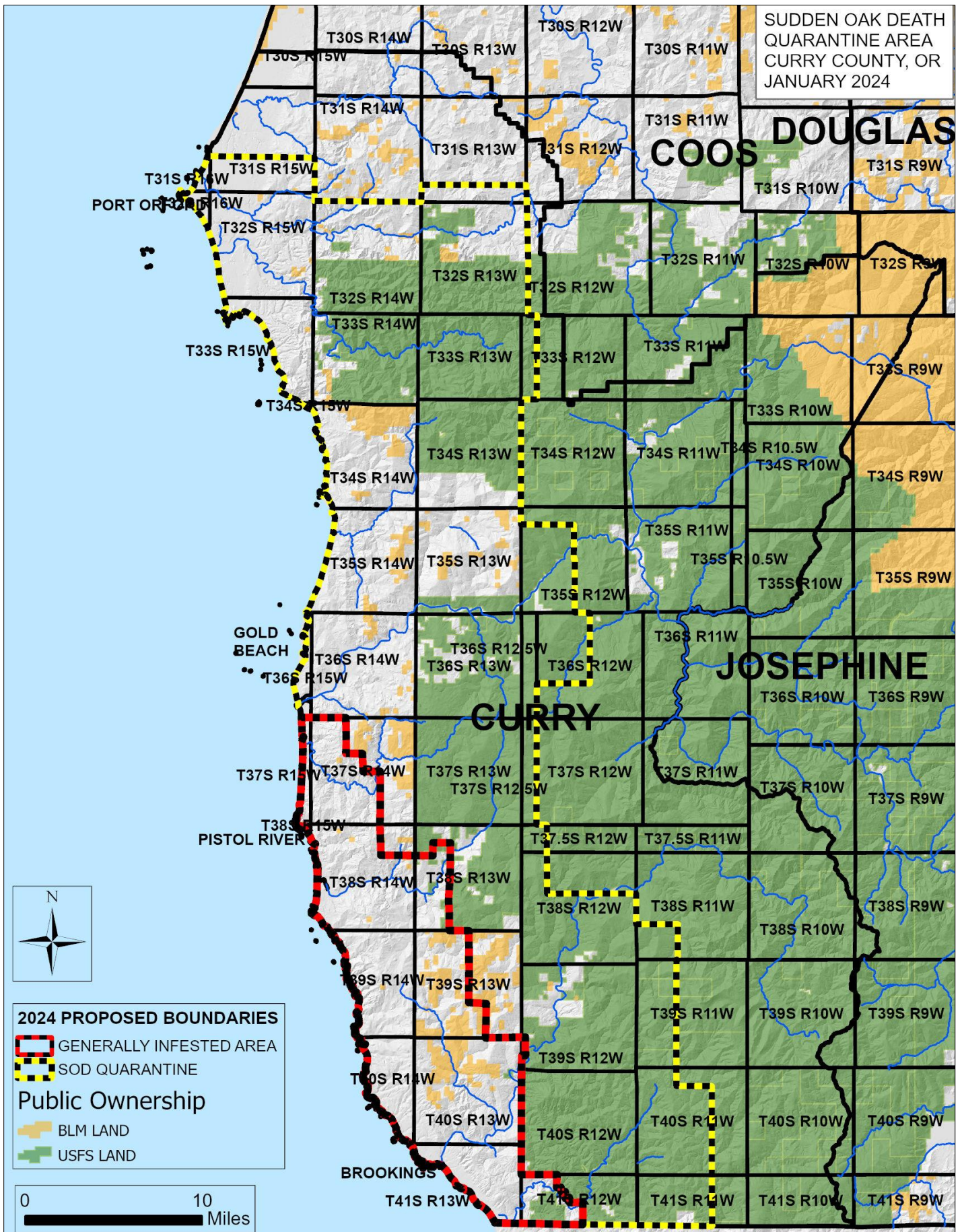


Figure 5. Proposed SOD Quarantine and Generally Infest Area Boundaries.

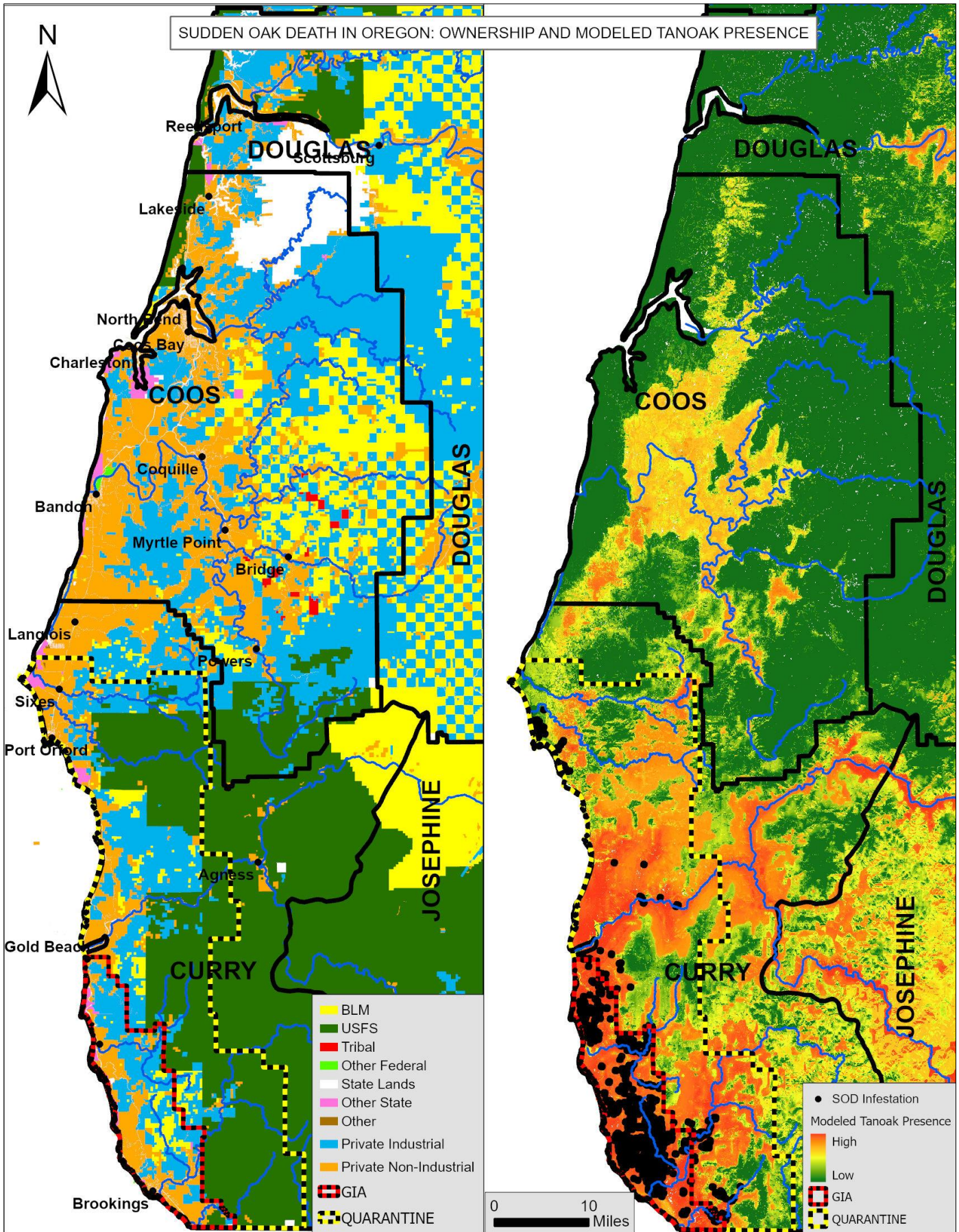


Figure 6. Proposed SOD Quarantine and Generally Infest Area Boundaries overlaid with ownership and modeled tanoak presence.