Management to Promote Forest Health on the North Coast

Yana Valachovic SOD 7
Overview

- **Background**
  - Location and disturbance history

- **Multiple Management objectives**
  - Conifer, fuels, SOD, prairies, recreation

- **Partnerships**
  - Redwood Valley Group (UCCE leadership), USFS funding, Research (UC, USGS), CalFire, Hoopa Valley Tribe

- **Work completed to date**

- **Next Steps**
Logging prior to BLM ownership
Overstocked Stands
Conifer encroachment
2008 Management Plan

- Late Successional Forest Development
  - Recognized that tanoak was overstocked and called for thinning tanoak, conversion to conifer

- Watershed Restoration
  - Removal of old logging roads

- Prairie and Oak Woodland Restoration

- Monitor / Enhance Wildlife Habitat

- Inventory Cultural Resources

- Fire and Fuel Management

- Recreation – Trail system with campsites
What to do?...

- Dialogue among partners, neighbors, landowners:
  - How is it spreading?
  - Can it be stopped, slowed or mitigated?
  - Go direct or indirect or go home?
  - Do “buffers” work?
  - What are the treatment options?
  - How are the neighbors dealing with it?
  - What does the research say?
  - How to treat slash from thinning?
  - Herbicide use?
  - What about funding????
  - How to maintain tanoak on the landscape?
Initial treatment

- Objectives:
  - Get out in front
  - Slow the spread
  - Increase stand resilience to SOD
  - Mitigate hazardous fuels conditions (if SOD continues to spread)
  - Maintain residual canopy to reduce resprouting of cut tanoaks (i.e. reduce the need for herbicides and retreatment frequency).

- Funding from USFS Forest Health Protection Program
2014 Prescription

- Thin tanoak trees up to 16” DBH
- 20’ by 20’ spacing
- All California bay trees felled
- Slash was piled (for eventual burning)

- Research and Monitoring
  - UCD, USGS, UCCE
2014 Treatment

Before

After
Lacks Creek West Side Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction Plan (2018)

- **Objectives**
  - Slow spread and mitigate effects of SOD
  - Accelerate LSR development.
  - Reduce fuel loading and fire risk.
  - Restore conifer component within dense tanoak stands.
  - Treat riparian reserves consistent with Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives within the Northwest Forest Plan.
Management Actions

- Hardwood conversion/thinning
  - Included mastication
- Pre-commercial Thinning
- Commercial thinning / Biomass
- Fire management
  - Roadside Fuels Reduction
  - Forest Residue treatment
- UCCE implementation
Mastication
Tracked Chipper
CalFIRE Grant

- $4.3 million
- Treat remaining approximately 1500 acres
Prairie, oak woodland restoration
Thanks to all our cooperators