

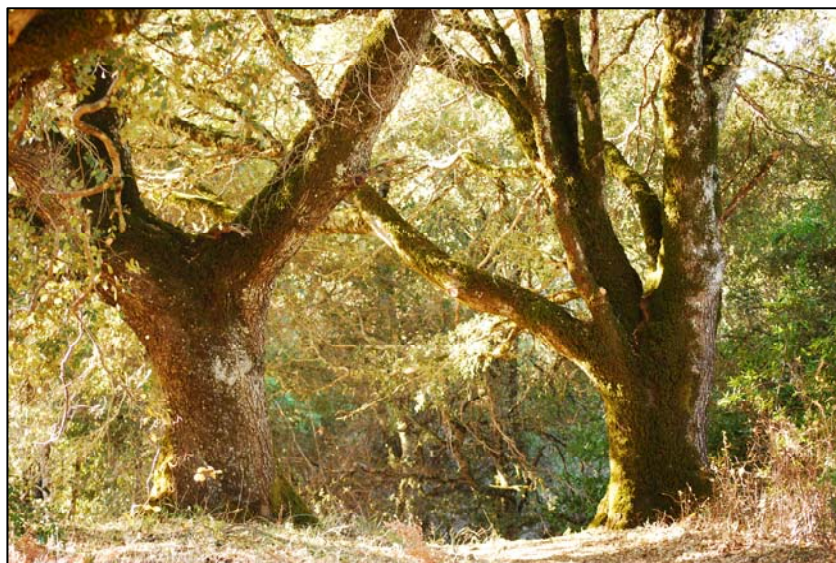
# Specimen Oak Study

In 2009, scientists confirmed that Los Trancos Open Space Preserve is the only known site where mature canyon live oaks are dying from sudden oak death. It was previously thought that mature canyon live oaks were not affected by this disease. The Open Space District and scientists are working to try and protect these and other large oaks with a new study that began Nov. 2009, aimed at researching the effectiveness of Agri-Fos and select California bay tree removal in protecting single, large specimen oak trees from the disease.

In Los Trancos Open Space Preserve, twelve large oak trees along the Fault and San Franciscan Loop trails were sprayed with the fungicide Agri-Fos, considered by the EPA to be safe and non-toxic. Scientists believe Agri-Fos may help protect healthy oaks from sudden oak death. The trees will be sprayed again in spring 2010 and then annually each fall. Select California bay trees near the treated oaks were removed to reduce the risk of infection.



As part of this same study, bay trees were also removed from around large canyon live oaks along the Ancient Oaks Trail in the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. Scientists are concerned that visitors climbing these oaks may be contributing to sudden oak death infections due to *P. ramorum* spores on their shoes being transmitted directly to the tree trunks. The Open Space District is asking the public to please not climb these magnificent trees in order to help protect them from sudden oak death.



Large canyon live oaks in the Los Trancos Open Space Preserve.