

Goldspotted Oak Borer and Oak Mortality
Quarterly Situation Report
October 1 through December 31, 2015

Los Angeles County

A community meeting was held in Green Valley on November 5th to provide the local citizenry with information about GSOB since its discovery within the community. Los Angeles County Agriculture Commissioner's Office, LA County Fire/Forestry, USFS, Cal Fire and UCCE collaborated to put the meeting together which had good attendance with great concern shown by the residents. LA County agencies are working on developing a response plan. LA County purchased some extra 4x8' Buy It Where You Burn It roadside signs and will install them near the infestation area.

San Diego County Update

The Education/Outreach Committee held a GSOB community meeting at Champagne Village north of Escondido on December 1st sponsored by the Deer Springs Fire Safe Council. It was well attended by residents of the Village and nearby Hidden Meadows where GSOB has been discovered. A volunteer GSOB survey group is being organized to identify infested trees and to spread information to other members of the community.

GSOB Quarterly report for San Diego County Parks

San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation is proactive in working towards a solution regarding the impact of the Gold Spotted Oak Borer. Along with removal of infested trees, DPR is actively planting new trees to make up for the lost trees. With the assistance of the Department of Agricultural Weights and Measures, DPR is completing an alternative treatment program in many of the units that are infested. DPR is also working with the County's GIS to improve tracking methods.

Dos Picos

17953 Dos Picos Park Road
32.998766 -116.941781

23 newly infested trees. 5 trees planted with help from Cubs Scouts and Cal Fire.

El Monte

15805 El Monte Road
32.892602 -116.848137

No new GSOB infested trees. 5 24" boxes California Live oaks were planted by staff. Also, a talk was given to 13 college students about the GSOB and afterwards, 41 5 gallon California Oak seedlings were planted at the staging area. All the 41 Oak seedlings were grown in the park from acorns collected from around the park

Flinn Springs
14787 Old Hwy. 80
32.84713 -116.86184

Four talks about the GSOB to members of the public with 25 people in attendance. Flinn Springs has collected lots of acorns to begin their nursery, including a lot of Engelmann's. Flinn Springs hope to be able to offer the parks hundreds of saplings within the next couple of years.

Heise
4945 Heise Park Rd
33.040089 -116.593588
No report received.

Lake Morena
2550 Lake Morena Drive
32.683034 -116.517852
No new infested trees! No trees planted.

Mountain/Borrego Preserves
Santa Ysabel and Volcan Preserves
33.1197 -116.65233 (SYE)
No new infested trees reported.

Pine Valley
28810 Old Highway 80
32.821732 -116.529308
No new infestation reported. All 8 remaining Heritage trees in park have GSOB.

Potrero
24800 Potrero Park Drive
32.615222 -116.607263
No report received.

Ramona Preserves
Ramona, Mt Gower, Grasslands, Boulder Oaks and others
33.03679 -116.95124 (Grasslands)
23 newly infested trees were observed. Public outreach regarding the GSOB was given to the public with 25 attendees.

Stelzer
11470 Wildcat Canyon Road
32.881437 -116.903095
One newly infested tree. 15 groups with 1500 children were taught about the signs of the GSOB. 200 acorns were planted by volunteers such as schools groups and Boy Scouts.

Orange County Update

The interagency **Orange County Invasive Tree Pests** group met on two occasions this quarter and is developing an issue paper to present to elected officials. This group is addressing both GSOB and PSHB. Fortunately, the only known GSOB infestation continues to be at the Weir Canyon site.

Riverside County Update

The GSOB infestation in the county continues to be confined to the Idyllwild and Pine Cove Communities and in a dozen trees on San Bernardino Nation Forest land immediately adjacent.

Alternative treatments for infested wood: Cal Fire Riverside Unit Forester Gregg Bratcher and Kevin Turner of UCR partnered to conduct a trial to determine the effectiveness of using a conventional wood chipper to grind slabs of GSOB-infested bark to kill GSOB larvae. Previous grinding trials were done using large, powerful and expensive tub grinders and horizontal grinders; large grinders are not always going to be available and involve increased handling and transportation costs. Nearly tree services and agency crews have wood chippers which can chip limbs and branches, but not logs of the size preferred by GSOB; therefore slabs of bark were removed from the log. For the trial, we had 30 barrels of chipped bark slabs placed into barrels to see if there would be any emergence of GSOB adults. We only found 1 GSOB adult after checking the traps and sifting through the material from all 30 barrels.



Slabbing and Chipping of GSOB-infested oak rounds (unchipped slabs were used as controls)

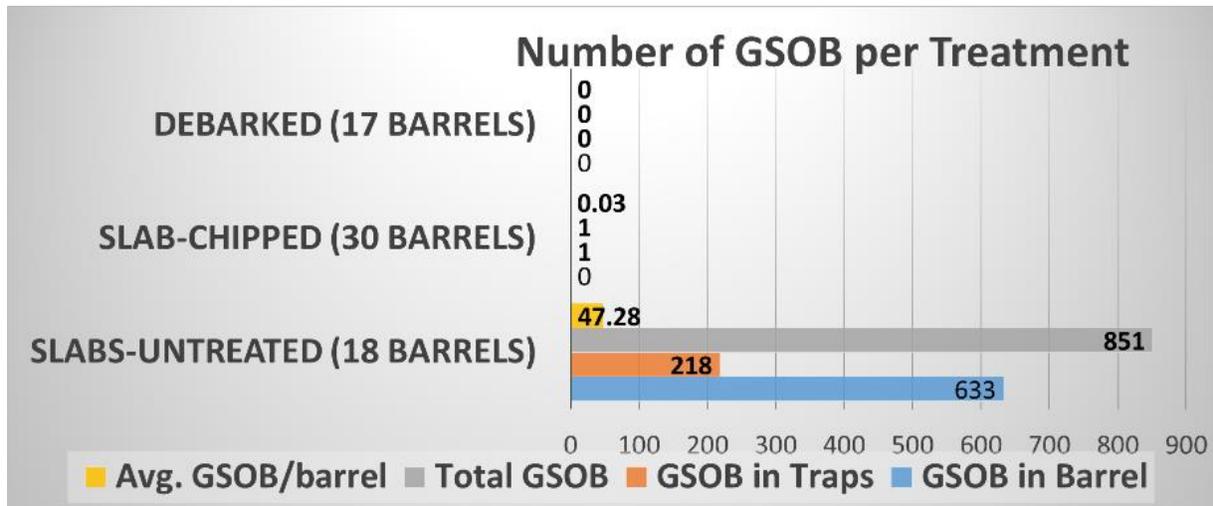
The other part of the trial involved using chain-saw powered debarkers to remove bark down to the sapwood. The chips produced from that process were very fine and we found no GSOB adults from the 17 barrels tested.



The chainsaw-powered debarkers produced very fine bark chips.

Untreated controls used for comparison in the trials consisted of 18 barrels of slabs similar to those run through the chipper and netted a total emergence of 851 adult GSOB.

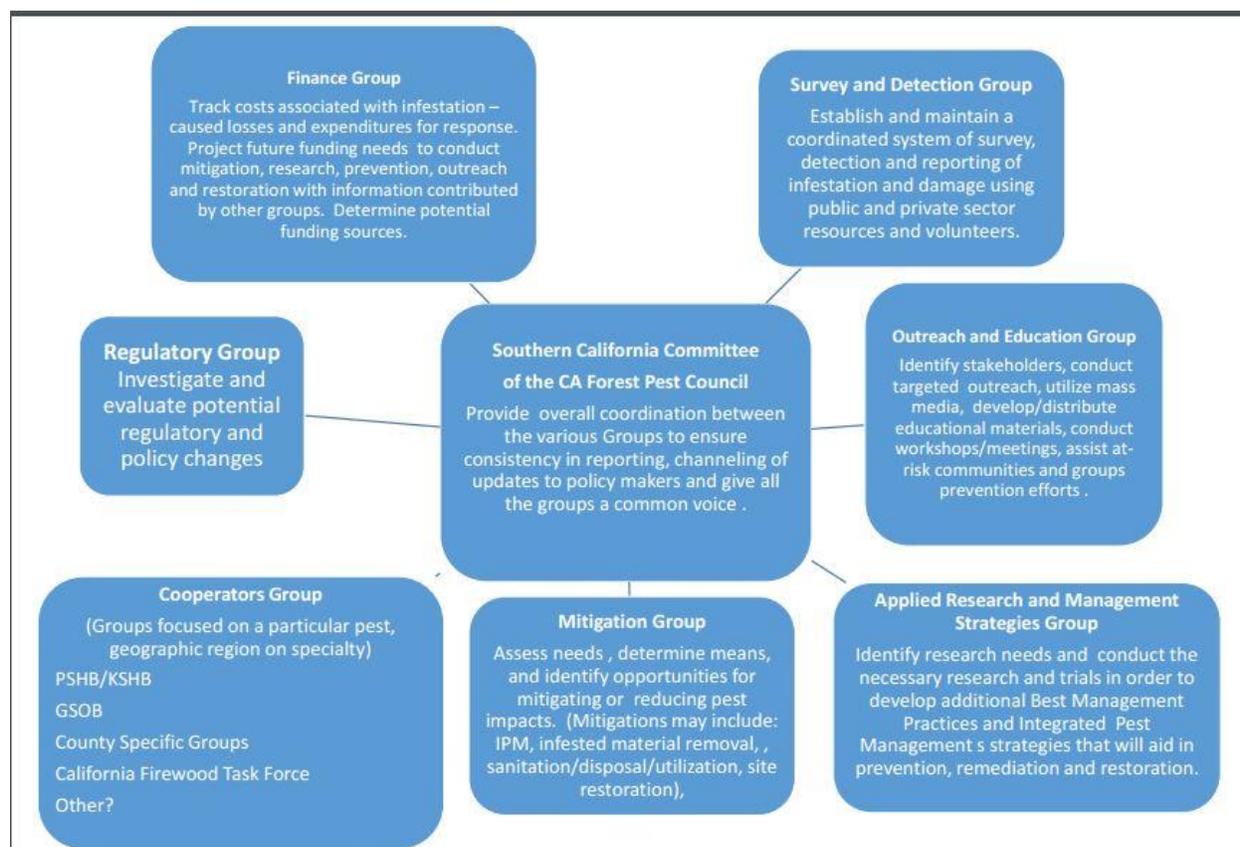
Both slabbing/chipping and chipping and debarking allow for the wood to remain on site where it can be “safely” used for firewood or large woody biomass. However, both of those options are labor-intensive.



Results of Chipper and Debarker Trials (note: traps on the tops of barrels served as indicators of GSOB emergence and were added to # of GSOB adults found inside the barrels for Total GSOB)

GSOB Task Force is now the Southern California Forest Pest Committee

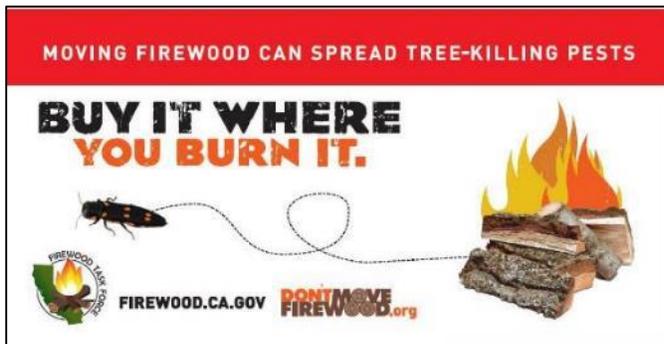
The GSOB TF has officially been absorbed by the Southern California Forest Pest Committee who will be tackling GSOB along with PSHB/KSHB, any future invasive tree pests along with native pests of both natural and urban forests. The Committee's officers are Kevin Turner chair, Kim Corella chair-elect and Megan Lulow secretary. We had a good discussion at our December 10th meeting about how to best organize for action. We've taken your suggestions and have put them in the attached. Please take a look and give feedback. Note that the "subcommittees" are now identified now as operational "groups" that would form and meet on an as-needed basis.



On a related note, the California Agricultural Commissioners Association (CACASA) hosted a state-wide conference call on PSHB/KSHB on 12/16 which included federal, state and local government and UC. There seemed to be consensus that it is time to look at a state-wide effort to battle these pests. It's not clear yet how our SoCal group will integrate with this effort.

Our best wishes go out to Dr. Tom Coleman as he tackles his next challenges with his promotion and move to Albuquerque NM. Our GSOB team won't be the same without him and we greatly appreciate all he did for the cause.

Roadside Signs:



Cal Fire’s Norco Camp has produced the 4x8’ roadside signs and frames which are now being distributed for installation in both southern and northern California. Thanks to the California Firewood Task Force for providing the funds (firewood.ca.gov). Please contact Kevin Turner kevint@ucr.edu if your agency is interested in purchasing additional signs.

Collaborative Tools Calendar

12/20/2015	Operation Snapshot Customs Border Protection	Otay Mesa Port of Entry Passenger Vehicles
12/10/2015	So. Calif. Committee of Forest Pest Council	San Bernardino NF Supervisor's Office
12/3/2015	Emerging Tree Pest of Orange County	OC Fire Authority HQ
12/1/2015	Deer Springs Fire Safe Council - Hidden Meadows and Champagne Village	Champagne Village and Hidden Meadows north of Escondido
11/5/2015	Los Angeles County - Green Valley Community Meeting	Green Valley Charitable Hall (GVCH)
11/4/2015 - 11/5/2015	CA Forest Pest Council Annual Mtg.	Sacramento - USFS McClellan Training Cntr.
10/7/2015	So. Calif. Committee of Forest Pest Council	Riverside RCD 4500 Glenwood Dr., Building F,
10/1/2015	Emerging Tree Pest of Orange County meeting	Irvine

Goldspotted Oak Borer Education and Outreach Activities Jan Gonzales UCCE San Diego

- Coordinated workshop and field training for the Champagne Village and Hidden Meadows/Deer Springs communities north of Escondido on December 1, 2015. There were 49 residents and land managers from these areas as well as Palomar Mountain in attendance. 100% of the evaluation respondents indicated that they were very likely to share the information learned at this workshop with others. Presenters were Tom Coleman (USFS/FHP), Tom Scott and Kevin Turner (UCR), Tracy Ellis (San Diego County Ag) and Jan Gonzales (UCCE-San Diego).
- Continued collaborative work with representatives from local tribes to develop new handout addressing GSOB impacts to Native American tribal communities.
- Met with Colleen Bradley, Executive Director with the Volcan Mountain Foundation to discuss opportunities to collaborate on GSOB monitoring, management and education projects.
- Coordinated GSOB tabletop display use with collaborators for outreach at the Do No Harm Restoration Workshop (Palm Desert, 11/5/15) and GSOB Workshop (Escondido, 12/1/15).
- Coordinating the development mapping tools.
- Responded to 5 phone calls, online survey reports and/or email public inquiries about GSOB.
- Coordinated the printing of additional handout materials:
 - 10,000 GSOB ID cards (thin version) for general public
 - 5,000 updated GSOB tri-fold brochures and
 - 5,000 GSOB Firewood BMPs brochures
- Participated in 4 GSOB meetings/conference calls with the GSOB Education and Outreach Committee and 2 with the CFPC-southern California Forest Pest Committee.
- Continued work on update of the GSOB Advisory for firewood vendors.
- Maintained the www.GSOB.org website.

Please direct any corrections, questions or comments about the quarterly report to Kevin Turner at kevint@ucr.edu . We welcome your future contributions to the report for any activities or information related to GSOB. A reminder will be sent out through Collaborative Tools at the end of the next quarter.