

# Goldspotted Oak Borer and Oak Mortality

## Quarterly Situation Report

January 1 through March 31, 2015

### Riverside County Update

One additional GSOB-infested black oak was discovered in Idyllwild/Pine Cove during the last quarter, for a total of 62 since the initial discovery in late 2012. To date, no trees have been discovered on any public lands; all infested trees have been on private land or state/county road rights of way. This latest tree (black oak logs pictured right), was very large and was heavily-infested with GSOB larvae. It is being utilized to conduct additional trials for determining the effectiveness of conventional wood chippers and power debarking tools to kill GSOB. For more info, contact Gregg Bratcher – CAL FIRE Riverside Unit [gregg.bratcher@fire.ca.gov](mailto:gregg.bratcher@fire.ca.gov)

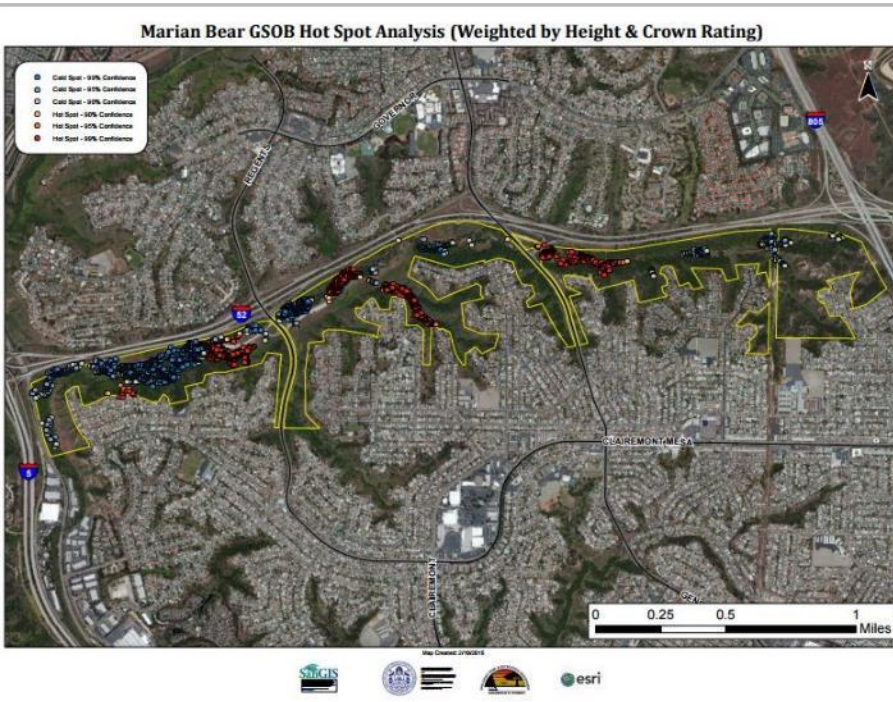


### City of San Diego

#### GSOB Survey and IPM for Marian Bear Parks

Betsy Miller, Senior Natural Resource Planner, Park and Recreation Open Space Division

This quarter, the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department's Open Space Division concluded their assessment of the impact of GSOB on City-owned land. From November 15, 2013 through January 13, 2015, Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees at Marian Bear Memorial Park were surveyed in order to evaluate the presence and effects of GSOB in the region. Oak trees that were safely accessible were



inspected for signs of GSOB infestation, such as bark staining, canopy thinning, and exit holes. A total of 57 trees were confirmed to have GSOB. An IPM plan is being developed based upon the results of this survey and the input of experts.

The City of San Diego also mailed GSOB informational packets to 550 residents living adjacent to Marian Bear Park. For more information, please contact Betsy Miller. [BMiller@sandiego.gov](mailto:BMiller@sandiego.gov).

## San Diego County Update

### County of San Diego Dept. of Parks and Recreation GSOB IPM Program

Dave Holt Jr., District Manager - Ramona/Mountains District [Dave.Holt@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Dave.Holt@sdcounty.ca.gov)

The GSOB IPM program is on track for topical treatments this May. This program is proceeding along well. Listed below is a program summary along with support information.

- Park Staff have received training in GSOB Identification in October 2014
- SD County GIS completed the Oak tree surveys in County park facilities using a GPS/Collector program. This information contains the criteria and numbers of “High Value” oak trees identified for treatment, removal and healthy status.
- SD County Park staff tagged the high value oak trees identified in the survey in preparation for treatment.
- SD County AWM and DPR selected MasterLine as the treatment product.
- A program budget developed and CEQA determination, NOE filed.
- Selected County park facilities were temporarily closed to the public to better facilitate treatment operations on the day of spraying.
- The GSOB topical treatment presentation is planned at the April Site Supervisors meeting.
- Tom Coleman with US Forest Service will monitor our IPM program model.

#### Individual County Park Quarterly Reports:

#### William Heise County Park (Julian CA)

<u>Location</u>	<u>New trees</u>	<u>Trees removed</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Picnic Area # 1		5	Continued crown thinning, Coast live and Black oak mortality around cabins 1& 2
Entrance Drainage		6	Continued crown thinning, Coast live and Black oak mortality
RV loop			Canyon Oaks appear to have new crown thinning. Large trees still holding on
Cabin Loop		2	Coast live oaks showing thinning and stress on perimeter of area.
Volunteer loop		1	Canyon oaks showing signs of infestation, continued thinning throughout.
Middle Loop		10	Continued oak mortality, mainly Coast Live.
YC1/Pond			Canyon oaks still showing signs of infestation and crown thinning
Upper loop		9	Coast live oaks showing thinning and stress on perimeter of area.
Ranger residence # 2			Huge area of mortality working outwards from residence.

**Dos Picos Regional Park  
All GSOB Trees removed Jan. 1 to Mar. 31, 2015**

	<u>* New GSOB Trees</u>	<u>Total GSOB Trees Removed to Date</u>
Campground	36	61
Day Use, Area 1	0	2
Day Use, Area 2	9	12
Day Use, Area 3	3	15
Along Service Road	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>95</b>

\* New GSOB trees are trees discovered this quarter, awaiting removal. Removals are ongoing.

### Orange County Update

Although GSOB has only been discovered at one location so far in Orange County, specifically in Weir Canyon, OCFA has been asked by Cal Fire, in conjunction with UC Riverside, to help assemble and facilitate a GSOB Task Force in order to be prepared should the infestation worsen. To date, the Orange County GSOB Task Force, has met twice, once on March 2nd, and again on April 2, 2015, and has benefitted from the past experiences and lessons learned in both San Diego and Riverside Counties shared by the subject expert attendees. At the last meeting, a decision was made to change the Task Force name to “Emerging Tree Pests of Orange County”, in order to help secure funding by being broader in scope. While we are still in the process of fine tuning who the appropriate participants should be, a framework response strategy is near completion, in the form of an IAP, and is based on the premise of continued cooperative working relationships between key organizations, land owners, cities and the surrounding counties. Fortunately, a lot of information, processes and tools, which can easily be adapted for Orange County or organizational-specific use, are already in place to help address the situation, such as GSOB .org, flyers/door hangers, a GSOB hotline, etc.

At present, the key issues to help prevent and help limit the further spread of GSOB include:

- 1) **Transportation of Infected Fire Wood** – Important targets include end users, firewood vendors/retailers, common campfire locations, firewood site use and sales policies, risk prone residential areas, etc.
- 2) **Effective Treatment/Removal/Disposal Options for Infected Trees/Wood** – Options that make sense for Orange County continue to be researched
- 3) **Public & Organizational Outreach/Education** – With a focus on the risks, identification processes, reporting procedures and best practices
- 4) **Public Information Strategies (PIO)** – Determine who the appropriate spokes people are, based on the situation, plus develop consistent messaging and effective communication tools
- 5) **Funding** – Position Orange County to more easily qualify and secure funding for outreach and eradication efforts

Participants in the Emerging Tree Pests of Orange County group include Orange County Fire Authority, UCCE, CAL FIRE, OC County Parks, OC Agriculture Commissioner, OC Waste Management Agency, Cleveland NF, Irvine Ranch Conservancy, Rancho Mission Viejo, Sempra Energy, SCE, Camp Pendleton, several OC cities and/or their fire departments. For more information, please contact Battalion Chief Brian Norton [BrianNorton@ocfa.org](mailto:BrianNorton@ocfa.org) or Kimberly Gomi [kimberlygomi@ocfa.org](mailto:kimberlygomi@ocfa.org).

**Weir Canyon Infestation Rapid Response Plan:**

Of nearly 600 coast live oaks surveyed at the Weir Canyon site, so far 70 have been confirmed to have some level of GSOB infestation. Irvine Ranch Conservancy, on behalf of Orange County Parks (the landowner), developed a GSOB Rapid Response Plan using input from CAL FIRE, UCCE and USFS Forest Health Protection. In addition to expanding the survey area beyond the initial perimeter of the infestation, the plan called for the immediate removal/disposal of 20 moderately and highly infested oaks and various pesticide treatments for the remaining more lightly-infested trees. Preventative treatments are also planned for apparently non-infested trees that are located immediately adjacent to infested trees. Under contract with Orange County Parks, an OC Fire Authority hand crew felled and bucked moderately and highly infested trees and a tree service contractor ground infested material to kill GSOB larvae. As of end of March 2015, no other GSOB-infestations have been identified in Orange County. For more information on the Weir Canyon response plan, please contact Jutta Burger at [jburger@irconservancy.org](mailto:jburger@irconservancy.org)



**Oak Assessment Workshop:** On February 26<sup>th</sup>, Rancho Mission Viejo hosted a Rapid Oak Assessment demonstration that featured a field trip to Ronald W. Caspers Wilderness Park on the Ortega Highway (74), east of San Juan Capistrano. Participants, including agency personnel, resource management consultants, and organized volunteers, saw a presentation and field demonstration of a rapid assessment program. The event prompted a good exchange of ideas on potential ways to survey for oak problems, how to collect data, and ensure prompt reporting of GSOB or PSHB.

## San Bernardino County

There have been several reports of possible GSOB infestation in San Bernardino, but follow-up inspections by CAL FIRE and USFS personnel have determined that the oak mortality observed so far is not associated with GSOB or PSHB. Chino Hills State Park and surrounding communities are very concerned especially considering the relatively close proximity of the Orange County infestation at Weir Canyon. GSOB ID training is scheduled for Park and Fire Safe Council personnel. For more information, contact Henry Herrera, CAL FIRE San Bernardino Unit - [Henry.Herrera@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Henry.Herrera@fire.ca.gov)



### GSOB Outreach and Education Activities – Jan Gonzales UCCE San Diego

- With Tracy Ellis, Entomologist, County of San Diego Ag, Weights and Measures Department, delivered presentation and handout materials on GSOB, PSHB and firewood movement to the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, January 20, 2015; approximately 25 in audience of fire professionals, building department staff, Resource Conservation District staff and community fire safe council leaders from throughout the County.
- Participated in the GSOB training at Weir Canyon in Orange County, January 22, 2015 and delivered handout materials for distribution to Orange County residents.
- Hosted GSOB Steering Committee meeting and conference call, January 27 w/ 19 participants.
- Provided GSOB and PSHB educational display at the training for County Ag Inspectors held at the Center for Applied Horticulture Research, January 28, 2015.
- Continued development of GSOB Interpreter training package.
- Responded to 4 phone calls and/or email inquiries regarding GSOB.
- Distributed handout materials:
  - 500 GSOB trifold brochures
  - 500 UCIPM GSOB Pest Note pamphlet
  - 200 GSOB ID cards
  - 100 GSOB Firewood Advisory handouts
- Participated in 2 GSOB meetings/conference calls with the GSOB Education and Outreach Committee and hosted a call on GSOB/Don't Move Firewood road signs.
- Coordinated the printing of more GSOB ID cards for survey and monitoring.
- Collaborated with UCCE and USFS staff to develop GSOB resource printing needs.
- Added Orange County information on website: [www.GSOB.org](http://www.GSOB.org)

**GSOB Collaborative Tools Calendar**

3/25/2015	Southern California Committee of CA Forest Pest Council	University of Redlands	Kevin Turner	
3/10/2015	Pest Control Operators of California	Mission Valley San Diego CA	Tracy Ellis	
3/2/2015	Orange County GSOB Task Force meeting	Orange County Fire Authority Irvine CA	Kevin Turner	
2/26/2015	Orange County Oak Woodland Monitoring	Rancho Mission Viejo	Kevin Turner	
2/25/2015	Invasive Species Week	San Ysidro Port of Entry Pedestrian Crossing	Tracy Ellis	
2/14/2015	Palomar Property Owners Association Board Meeting	Mount Palomar	Mike Puzzo	
1/22/2015	GSOB Field ID Training	Orange County – Weir canyon	Kevin Turner	
1/20/2015	San Diego Fire Safe Council meeting	County Operations Center, Kearney Mesa	Tracy Ellis	

**Please direct any corrections, questions or comments about the quarterly report to Kevin Turner at [kevint@ucr.edu](mailto: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 March.**