

# Goldspotted Oak Borer and Oak Mortality Situation Report

July 2010, California



*It is with sadness that we inform you that Andi Koonce, USFS Plant pathologist with the Southern California Shared Service Area passed away on July 24, 2010. Andi was an active and earnest partner to the GSOB Team.*

*Retired Assistant Region Chief Fred Batchelor, 72, passed away July 7, 2010. He served with Cal Fire for over 53 years and provided superb leadership in both fire and resource management services. He was a graduate from University of California Berkeley and held a Registered Professional Foresters license (RPF-1453). In the later part of his working career with Cal Fire he was a strong leader in resource management for Southern California.... He will be missed.*

## Legislation, Coordination and Command

### **Julie Lydick, USFS R5**

- Tom Coleman, USFS Southern California Shared Service Area, Steve Seybold, USFS- Pacific Southwest Research Station, and Tom Scott, University of Riverside made presentations to the USFS Washington Office Forest Health Protection Review Team that was conducting a 5 year program review of the Forest Health Protection program in the Pacific Southwest Region in July. An initial finding of the Review Team was, “*Gold Spotted Oak Borer: FHP has developed an effective GSOB plan with leadership provided by the Southern California service center. The review team feels the highest priority action items are to develop biological control agents and single tree protection against GSOB. Integrated pest management is a useful technique to put all tools together in a pilot strategy to combat GSOB.*” The initial recommendation to the Region’s Forest Health Protection program is: 1) Do an assessment of all the various insects and diseases that affect oak woodlands. This should include the interaction of SOD and GSOB as well as other emerging oak decline issues, 2) More work needs to be done to address potential GSOB biological control possibilities and improve individual tree protection through the use of insecticides and if needed appropriate fungicides. Explore a pilot using state of the science IPM techniques for mitigating GSOB.

### **Kathleen Edwards, Cal Fire**

- Coordinating with Tom Scott on the hiring process for the GSOB Executive Director, which is a position funded through ARRA and administrated as a grant between USFS-State and Private Forestry, and agreement between Cal Fire and Cal Fire and UC Riverside.

## Regulatory Activities

### **Kathleen Edwards, Cal Fire**

- There is still interest to pursue a Zone of Infestation by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

## Survey, Detection, Monitoring

### **Julie Lydick, USFS R5**

### **Sheri Smith, USFS FHP**

- The U.S. Forest Service and University of Riverside amended an existing agreement July 2010 by adding \$150,000 to do additional investigation of pathogens associated with GSOB and to set up a pilot Citizen Monitoring program to conduct surveys and follow up on potential GSOB detections. Akif Eskalen and Tom Scott are the principle investigators for this project at UCR.

### **Kathleen Edwards, Cal Fire**

- Tom Coleman provided a dozen monitoring/detection traps to Shannon Johnson (CAL FIRE, Monte Vista Unit). Most of these traps have been set up at various locations in the northern and western areas of San Diego County on state, county or private properties. Traps will be monitored every two weeks.

### **Tom Coleman, USFS FHP**

- Approximately 50 distribution traps have been established by Forest Health Protection in San Diego, Riverside, and San Bernardino Cos. to monitor the current distribution of GSOB. These traps will be checked for GSOB in early September.
- Ewiiapaayp was surveyed for GSOB-caused tree mortality. The reservation has lost a tremendous amount of coast live oak to GSOB.

## Science Activities and Findings

### **Paul Zambino, USFS SoCal. FHP**

- This past June, Dr. Sandra Denman, Senior Forest and Plant Pathologist at the Centre for Forestry and Climate Change, Surrey, England, visited the lab of Akif Eskalen, University of California, Riverside. Dr. Denman is the lead investigator of acute oak decline in Great Britain, in which bacteria are believed to play a role. She and Paul Zambino, USDA Forest Service, SoCal FHP pathologist, sampled coast live oak and California black oak trees affected by goldspotted oak borers, and isolated bacteria from the stained bark cankers that often develop at sites of GSOB infestation. Bacteria will be identified in the Eskalen and Denman labs.

### **Tom Coleman, USFS FHP**

- GSOB field studies (tree health monitoring, new survey traps, oak lure testing, and firewood treatments) continue from earlier this summer (FHP/APHIS/PSW).
- Sampling continues for insecticide trials and chipping treatments (FHP/UCD/SRS).
- Eight oak species (native and exotic oaks) found in California are being tested for susceptibility to GSOB larval feeding (FHP/NRS/PSW).

## Public Outreach, Media Coverage, Technical Assistance

### **Kathleen Edwards, Cal Fire**

- Shannon Johnson gave a GSOB presentation to the Ramona Fire Safe Council – and it was well received by the audience. A newspaper writer attended the meeting as well and an article is expected to be published in the local newspaper.

### **Tom Scott, UCCE/UC Riverside**

### **Kathleen Edwards, Cal Fire**

- Planning and coordinating with Northern and Southern California Society of American Forest (SAF) chapters on an Oak Mortality workshop, which will include GSOB as a key topic. The workshop will be held at Santa Rosa Plateau on September 15, 2010.

### **Jan Gonzales, UCCE San Diego**

- The URL reference for the GSOB website is now <http://gsob.org>. This simplified domain name was secured by the California Oak Mortality Taskforce and points to the existing site.

- GSOB Website Statistics as of July 16, 2010.

(September 1, 2009 – July 16, 2010)

- Hits: 120,027  
(13,090 more since last Sit Report)
- Page Views: 41,197  
(3,065 more since last Sit Report)

Online Reports:

- Public GSOB Citing Report – 37 entries  
(7 new since last Sit Report)
- GSOB Email Subscriptions - 70 entries  
(8 new since last Sit Report)

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### **Contact Information:**

This is a multi-agency update of information.

To submit information for this report or if you have questions, contact:

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