

Goldspotted Oak Borer and Oak Mortality

Quarterly Situation Report

October 1 through December 31, 2012

San Diego GSOB Steering Committee

The Steering Committee met on November 19th and discussed how to take the best advantage of the Zone Of Infestation declared by the CA Board of Forestry, considered a request by UC to contribute soft match for the new GSOB Detection-Monitoring-Outreach grant and discussed at length the impact of the discovery of GSOB outside of San Diego County in Idyllwild (Riverside County). We have two new participants in the committee: Jim Bethke is now the UC Cooperative Extension Director in San Diego County and replaces Valerie Milano; Joe Hopkins is the new (to us) CDPR Environmental Scientist who has taken the place of Matt McDonald while Ray Lennox is sitting in on our meetings in place of the now retired Nedra Martinez for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Goldspotted Oak Borer Detection-Monitoring-Outreach Program (funded by the Western States Competitive Grant - Tom Scott, Jan Gonzales (UCCE San Diego) and Kevin Turner

With the July 2012 end of the ARRA grant (which funded so many of our GSOB efforts), we had to find new sources of funding to continue our work on GSOB. Fortunately, we were successful in competing for a Western States Competitive grant for GSOB Detection, Monitoring and Outreach to keep those aspects of the program going. In addition, Cooperative Forest Health Protections funds were provided to continue the GSOB Coordinator position held by Kevin Turner for another year. This is a very special thank you to both U.S. Forest Health Protection and CAL FIRE for making this a reality.

Detection - GSOB Early Warning System (EWS): A “beta” version of the GSOB Early Warning System (EWS) Mobile Application was distributed in late December 2012 to partnering agencies and selected volunteers in our “Citizen Scientist” program. This system will be used to collect data from oak tree health surveys conducted to determine the presence of GSOB or other insects/pathogens that may be attacking oaks anywhere in southern California. This web-based application can be accessed at <http://wrigis.csusb.edu/GSOB/>. After a brief initial trial period, the application will be rolled out to the rest of our EWS citizen scientist volunteers and other interested agency partners. (Jan Gonzales or Kevin Turner can provide detailed instructions)

Reports of possible GSOB in trees or firewood submitted through the www.GSOB.org website are currently being followed up by professionals from UCCE/UCR, San Diego Agricultural Commissioner staff, USFS FHP, CAL FIRE, LA County Fire/Forestry and a few select others in Orange and Ventura counties.

Monitoring: Progressive aerial imagery mapping of the GSOB infestation is continuing at the lab in UCR and is incorporating data from selected ground surveys to verify the mapping work. Additional wood samples have been brought up from the infestation area in San Diego to be subjected to dendrochronology examination to help determine dates of attack and tree death caused by GSOB and/or other pests/pathogens. Samples are sanded to the fine finish required for this analysis by our Sample Preparation Specialist and then are catalogued and analyzed by the Dendrochronology technicians. In addition, we have made return trips during the quarter to infested areas San Diego County to observe any changes in tree mortality levels and to talk with local landowners.

Outreach (training and field trips): Two major outreach efforts to train new GSOB Early Warning System (targeting EWS volunteers and agency/tribal personnel involved in the EWS) occurred this fall. The most recent occurred on December 4th at Live Oak County Park in Fallbrook (extreme northern San Diego County) with 76 participants (including 10 foresters from the LA County Fire - Forestry Division) learned how to conduct oak tree health surveys and identify GSOB and other pests and diseases of oaks. The Fallbrook training followed a highly successful training we held in Julian on September 19th where we had 40+ attendees, many of whom were representatives of local Native American tribes in San Diego County. Jan Gonzales of the UC Cooperative Extension office in San Diego helped to orchestrate many of these events. She also served as a presenter at these events along with Tom Scott (UCCE Berkeley/UCR), Kevin Turner (UCR), Tom Coleman (USFS FHP) and Pat Nolan (San Diego County Ag Commissioner pathologist).

With assistance by CAL FIRE Pest Specialist Kim Camilli and the District Ranger Donn Christiansen and Maureen Anderson of the Descanso RD – Cleveland National Forest, the team of Jan, Kevin and Pat worked with Marty Leavitt of the Greater San Diego County RCD to organize, coordinate and make presentations for the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts GSOB field trip in Descanso on November 14. In attendance were state-wide representatives from various RCDs and cooperating agencies. Following presentations at the Viejas Training Center, a field trip ensued to see GSOB attack and oak restoration efforts.

Other Outreach Activities: Outreach materials developed and produced by Jan Gonzales UCCE San Diego with help from others, including GSOB BMPs for firewood, GSOB-specific “Don’t Move Firewood” posters, GSOB ID cards and other GSOB literature were distributed to San Diego County and other surrounding Southern California Counties during the reporting period. GSOB “poster” display boards were exhibited at both the November California Forest Pest Council annual meeting and the Continental Dialogue meeting which was held in California this year. The www.GSOB.org website continues to be a primary source for GSOB information. The UCANR “Collaborative Tools” information system continues to serve as the means by which GSOB outreach and education are being coordinated between the participating agencies and groups.

Oct-Dec 2012 Collaborative Tools Calendar

12/12/2012	<u>Riverside MAST Meeting</u>
12/4/2012	<u>GSOB Field Training-Fallbrook</u>
11/13/2012	<u>Continental Dialogue on Non-Native Forest Insects</u>
10/9/2012	<u>Presentation to Manzanita Tribe - Tom Coleman</u>

(Note that the annual two-day meeting of the California Forest Pest Council meeting on November 7th & 8th was inadvertently left off the calendar)

Activities in Riverside County

With the discovery of GSOB in Idyllwild (Riverside County) in November 2012, things have been happening at a frantic pace to respond to the first jump of GSOB outside of San Diego County.

We at UCCE/UCR have established a working relationship with the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council in Idyllwild to establish a core of dedicated citizen scientist to conduct tree health surveys in Idyllwild and surrounding environs. In addition, the County Park system has agreed to assist us by incorporating Idyllwild Garden Club members combined with UCCE Master Gardeners to answer and screen phone inquiries related to GSOB. We held a two hour training session on November 20th which attracted 30 volunteers; these are people interested in answering phone inquiries about GSOB and becoming familiar with the insect.

A full GSOB EWS training session for volunteers and agency personnel in the San Jacinto Mountains is planned for January 18th. A “town hall” informational meeting for the public and a separate hands-on GSOB EWS training for agency personnel, selected volunteers and tree service professionals in the area are both scheduled for January 19th.

The multi-agency Riverside County Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) met with us on December 12 and formulated an incident action plan to participate in GSOB detection, monitoring and outreach as well as taking decisive actions to check the spread the spread of GSOB within the Riverside County Mountains. This unfortunate occurrence of GSOB will allow us to test the efficacy of GSOB Action Plans for new “isolated” occurrences of GSOB.

The interest level in other Southern California counties has risen greatly with the discovery of GSOB in Idyllwild. This will be an excellent springboard for the development of the Regional GSOB Task Force under the Southern California Committee of the Forest Pest Council. Kevin Turner will be working with Kim Camilli and Tom Coleman to pull that together.

County of San Diego Parks and Recreation – Roger Covalt

(Please take a look at the trends Roger is observing at Heise)

Heise Unit

<u>Location of following</u>	<u>New GSOB trees</u>	<u># of Trees dropped due to GSOB</u>	<u>Other GSOB concerns</u>
Picnic Area # 1			Continued oak mortality, mainly Coast Live but Canyon Oak now showing signs.
Entrance Drainage			Massive Coast Live mortality. Majority of trees have been removed
RV loop			Continued crown thinning, Coast live and Black oak mortality
Cabin Loop		2	Canyon oaks showing signs of infestation
Volunteer loop			Canyon oaks showing signs of infestation, continued thinning throughout.
Middle Loop			Continued oak mortality, mainly Coast Live.
YC1/Pond			Canyon oaks showing signs of infestation
Upper loop		9	Large amount of trees on verge on dying
Julian Estates			
Ranger residence # 1			
Ranger residence # 2		20	Massive dieoff which appears to be a continuation of the entrance drainage dieoff.

October - December 2012. An interesting observation was that there were a large number of trees that died quickly as the temperatures dropped. It appeared that this additional stress as the seasons changed put many of these trees past their limits. As the Coast Live Oak population diminishes we are seeing increased activity in the Canyon Oaks. Crown thinning, staining and exit holes.

Dos Picos Unit

<u>Unit name</u>	<u>Location of following</u>	<u>New GSOB trees</u>	<u># of Trees dropped due to GSOB</u>	<u>Other GSOB concerns</u>
Dos Picos				
	Campground	0	6	
	Day Use, Area 1	0	0	
	Day Use, Area 2	0	1	
	Day Use, Area 3	0	1	
	Along Service Road	0	0	
Other Comments				