



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

San Bernardino National Forest
Supervisor's Office

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Recreation Residence Permit Holders:

In November 2012, a dead California black oak was discovered in Idyllwild with larvae of an introduced pest, the Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB). The tree was located along Highway 243, near the center of town, which is located in the San Jacinto Mountains of Riverside County. Recently, two additional infested trees have been discovered in the Idyllwild community. The GSOB population was likely introduced to Idyllwild in oak firewood transported from infested areas in San Diego County. This invasive/exotic beetle species kills large, mature oak trees and represents a significant threat to oaks in our Southern California mountains.

Transporting firewood long distances can spread GSOB and other invasive pests to new areas in California. Oaks are at greatest risk if you or anyone in your area has purchased or imported infested oak firewood from San Diego County in the last 5 - 10 years. Hopefully, no GSOB-infested wood has already been brought into the Southern California mountains. Therefore, it is critical to ensure no potentially-infested oak wood is imported.

Why should care or you worry about this new pest? GSOB commonly destroys larger oaks (>1.5 ft trunk diameter) in infested areas, and have been observed to kill approximately 50% of the mature oaks in a ten year period. The highest rates of tree mortality are in California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). Canyon Live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) are also susceptible to GSOB, but to a lesser extent. Black oak is a common tree species in the Southern California mountain communities and make up a large component of mountain woodlands and forests. Coast live oak is the most common oak tree in the foothills below 4000 foot elevation. Canyon live oaks occur from about 3000 to 8500 ft elevation and are the most common oak tree above 6500 ft. GSOB outbreaks could devastate black oak woodlands and the oaks in mixed-conifer/hardwood forests in the Southern California mountains.

Since 2000, GSOB has killed an estimated 80,000 mature oaks over approximately 140,000 acres of San Diego County woodlands. This unprecedented oak die-off has produced a large volume of oak firewood. It appears that some of this infested oak firewood reached Idyllwild sometime before the summer of 2012. For this reason, oak firewood should only be purchased from reputable firewood dealers who obtained the wood from outside of the known infestation area in San Diego County or if they can provide evidence that Best Management Practices for GSOB firewood have been used to make the wood safe. The GSOB Zone of Infestation map for San Diego Co. may be viewed at:

http://ucanr.edu/sites/gsobinfo/About_Goldspotted_Oak_Borer_930/Location/ZOI/

Local, state, and federal agencies are working together to monitor for GSOB populations in trees and in firewood. You can help by reporting oaks that have shown any signs of decline, such as premature leaf



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loss resulting in a thin canopy, dark-colored staining on the stem, or D-shaped exit holes. Please visit <http://www.gsob.org> to see pictures of GSOB injury on oaks. You can also report trees or firewood suspected of being infested at the website. Please also report any locations where a dead oak was removed over the last 5 years. The University of California Master Gardeners can answer many of your questions about GSOB, (951) 683-6491 ext. 0. If you suspect there are GSOB infested trees near your recreation residence or you have oak wood that originated from the GSOB Zone of Infestation in San Diego County, please visit the website (<http://GSOB.org>) and report your information under the "Report GSOB Symptoms" tab.

Your efforts to help detect and stop the spread of this pest are greatly appreciated. Every property owner's help will be needed to protect the treasured oak trees that are very much a part of the San Bernardino mountains and its communities.

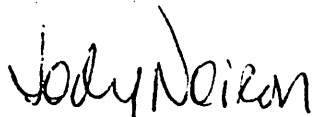
General Information on GSOB and firewood can be found at:

<http://GSOB.org>

<http://ucanr.org/sites/gsobinfo/>

<http://www.firewood.ca.gov>

Sincerely,



JODY NOIRON
Forest Supervisor