



Oaks Under Attack: What You Can Do To Prevent Goldspotted Oak Borer and Other Pest Infestations

Record numbers of oaks are dying in San Diego and Riverside Counties, killed by a suite of new pests and pathogens. Most can be transported in firewood and other raw wood products, which means that any oak woodland in southern California can become the next point of outbreak. With over a million acres of oaks in southern California, it is virtually impossible for agencies to monitor all woodlands for new areas of infestation. So, we're asking oak woodland owners to help us create an early warning system to protect their trees. Our goal is to stop the spread of species like the goldspotted oak borer, which is capable of killing over 90% of oaks in a woodland in less than 10 years. Here's how you can help:

Take Part in the Citizen Scientist Program

We're asking woodland owners to help monitor the condition of oaks in their areas, reporting new cases of oak mortality. You can help by taking part in our early warning system, providing information to scientists and managers about declining oaks in the region. The project has many levels of involvement, from incidental reports you can file on our website to participating as an oak woodland monitor, surveying areas for declining oaks.

To become involved you can:

- Identify oaks in your area and look for signs of infestation. Check the website **www.GSOB.org** for details.
- Attend training meetings, or organize a small group to be taught on-site by an instructor. **Contact Tara Piraneo, Citizen Scientist Coordinator (tpiraneo@ucr.edu)** to check for the next training session or to organize a workshop in your community.
- Sign up to monitor a specific geographic area for oak mortality/decline. (We can assign a survey area to you OR you can opt to monitor trees in an area of your convenience). To sign up please visit **www.GSOB.org/report**