

THE LIVE OAK NEWS

KEEPING THE DESCANSO COMMUNITY INFORMED

FALL 2009

"D3" OAK TREE MORTALITY & FUELS REDUCTION PROGRAM



Welcome to The Live Oak News!

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (RCD) administers the Dead, Dying and Diseased (D3) Oak Tree Mortality and Fuels Reduction Program in the Descanso area with funding provided by the United States Forest Service (USFS). The RCD has developed this newsletter as a way to keep the community involved and informed of the progress of the program on a regular basis as specific program milestones get underway in the coming months.

We'd greatly appreciate any feedback on how to improve this publication! Please contact us with any questions, concerns or suggestions you'd like to offer on how we can improve!

GO GREEN!

Go to our website and sign up to receive future newsletters in your e-mail

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About the RCD's "D3" Program

The RCD officially launched its "D3" program in August with the mailing of Right-of-Entry Agreements to over 600 private property owners in the greater Descanso including Boulder Creek Road and Sherilton Valley. The Highway 79 corridor is not included in the RCD's "D3" current project area, however, the County of San Diego is managing a tree removal program in that region and area residents are encouraged to contact the County at 1-866-986-9852 for more information.

An overwhelming response from the community has been received and over 250 parcels are currently enrolled in the "D3" program. Registration is still available for a limited time and residents in the project area are encouraged to contact the RCD to sign up.

The RCD is offering the option for property owners who participate and qualify for the "D3" program to keep up to one cord of oak wood felled from their property to be used specifically for firewood. Detailed restrictions apply and more information can be obtained by contacting the RCD.

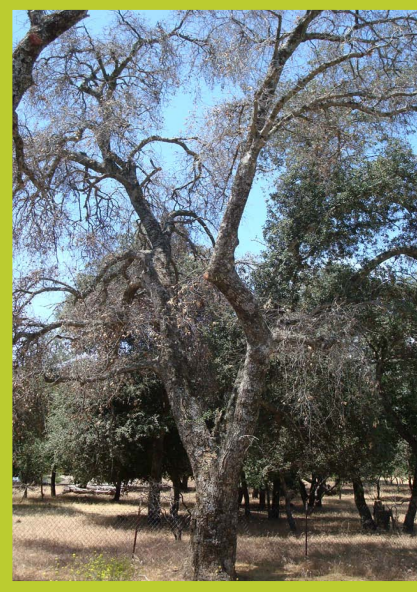
Existing funding restraints are limiting the "D3" program specifically to the greater Descanso area for this first phase, however, the RCD is actively seeking additional grant dollars that will provide the opportunity to offer the program in other nearby communities which are also being deeply devastated by the GSOB infestation.



What's happening to our Oak Trees?

In 2008, The US Forest Service (USFS) first linked serious mortality problems with oak trees within the Cleveland National Forest area of San Diego County; however, mature trees have been dying at an alarming accelerated rate since 2002. USFS entomologists and scientists have determined this damage is caused by the infestation of the Goldspotted Oak Borer Beetle (GSOB).

The GSOB is native to southeastern Arizona, southern Mexico, and northern Guatemala and is believed to have been transported into the San Diego area during the last ten years in oak firewood that was imported from central Mexico.



At this time, there is no known successful eradication method for the GSOB; however, the USFS is currently performing a series of potential techniques for effective suppression. Residents with affected trees on their property are encouraged to refer to the following resources for more information and guidance on various GSOB management options.

www.fs.fed.us/r5/spf/fhp/ www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland

**Do you have evidence of GSOB on your property?
Please report it here:**

<http://groups.ucanr.org/gsob/>



Above Top: D-shaped exit holes created by the GSOB on the outer bark of the tree. Lower Left: GSOB larvae – approx. 2 cm in length. Lower Right: GSOB adults – approx. 1 cm in length with six orange spots on the wings.

(Photos courtesy of US Forest Service)



Photo courtesy of The National Wildland/Urban Interface Program

This is a NO COST service for property owners and offered only in specified areas of San Diego County as determined by the RCD. Funding for this program is limited and requests for participation will be prioritized on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information or to register for this program, please contact Martin Aguilera at 619.749.4232 or martin.aguilera@rcdsandiego.org

MY HOME ZONE FACE TO FACE AWARENESS PROGRAM

PROPERTY AND LIFE SAFETY FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT
IN THE RURAL AREAS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

The RCD has launched this new program which provides one-on-one personal attention to individual property owners in specific rural communities within the County.

Participants in this program will receive an on-site individualized assessment of their property, which includes existing construction elements, vegetation, evacuation routes and emergency preparation within and beyond the existing 100-foot defensible space requirement for your property that might be impacted by a wildfire.

The information collected will remain confidential and will not be included in any required County, Cal Fire or local fire department inspection.



“D3” Procedure & Timeline

The following is an estimated approximate program timeline and is subject to change at any time.

OCTOBER 2009 – FEBRUARY 2010

Site Evaluations & Tree Marking

- The RCD’s Forester and GIS Coordinator have begun this extensive process and are marking trees for removal almost daily!
- Over 300 trees marked for removal (as of 10-15-09)

MARCH – APRIL 2010

Biological & Archeological Process

(approx. 6-8 weeks)

- Compliance with all local and federal environmental regulations is required

APRIL - MAY 2010

Public Bidding & Award Contracts

(approx. 4-6 weeks)

- Pre-Qualification Determination for Contractors
- Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by the RCD
- Bidding Process
- Award Contract(s)

WORK TO BEGIN – JUNE 2010

Notification will be provided to residents prior to start of work

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NO-COST CHIPPING SERVICE FOR FUELS REDUCTION

YOU CUT IT – WE’LL CHIP IT*

The RCD currently offers this program in the following areas:

Banner	Dulzura	Pauma
Barona Mesa	Greater Julian	Ramona
Black Canyon	Jacumba	San Pasqual
Boulder Creek	Jamul	S.D. County Estates
Boulevard	Lake Morena	Santa Ysabel
Campo	Lawson	Sherilton Valley
Descanso	Lyons	Valley Center
Deerhorn Valley	Mesa Grande	Warner Springs
	Pala	Wynola



**The RCD’s No-Cost Chipping Service dependent upon funding availability.*

Get your name on the list now!



For more information or to sign up for this program, please contact Tina Burnett at 619.749.4232 or tina.burnett@rcdsandiego.org

“The No-Cost Chipping Service is administered by the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County. Funding is provided by National Fire Plan grants from the USDA Forest Service through the California Fire Safe Council.”



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The "Dead Dying and Diseased Tree Mortality & Fuels Reduction Program" is administered by the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County and made possible with funding provided by the US Forest Service under the authority of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978.

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DO NOT MOVE, GIVE OR SELL ANY OAK WOOD FROM YOUR PROPERTY!!!



Photo courtesy of US Forest Service

VOLUNTARY OAK FIRE WOOD QUARANTINE REQUESTED!

HELP PREVENT THE MOVEMENT OF INVASIVE PESTS AND PROTECT OUR NATIVE OAK TREES

Transporting infested oak firewood can introduce the Goldspotted Oak Borer into unaffected areas. It is very important that local agencies and communities work together to stop the spread of these invasive pests to protect the natural beauty and wildlife habitat of our native oak woodlands.