



“D3” OAK TREE MORTALITY & FUELS REDUCTION PROGRAM

ABOUT THE RCD’S “D3” PROGRAM

The Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Greater San Diego County has secured grant funding from the US Forest Service for the felling and removal of dead, dying and diseased “D3” oak trees on private property in the targeted area of San Diego County.

Trees considered for removal must be dead, dying or diseased as identified by the program’s Forester and located within 100’ of structures and/or primary access/emergency roadways (as defined by the RCD). Biology and archeological surveys will also be conducted in the priority project areas to be treated.

This program is part of a collaborative effort between the RCD and numerous state and federal agencies to help reduce fire fuels and stop the spread of a devastating GSOB pest invasion to the area’s native oak trees.



Mature dead oak trees infected with GSOB in Descanso

THE PRIORITY PROJECT AREA

The project area is prioritized by the highest rate of oak tree mortality, posing the most significant safety threat to the specified community.



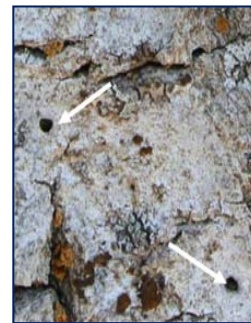
WHY ARE MY OAK TREES DYING?

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

The species of oak trees most affected by the GSOB include coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepsis*) and California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*).

ABOUT THE GSOB INFESTATION

The Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB) is native to southeastern Arizona, southern Mexico, and northern Guatemala. Research suggests it was most likely transported to the San Diego area during the last ten years in oak firewood that was imported from Mexico. The infestation typically happens in larger, more mature trees with a trunk diameter greater than 6 inches. At this time, there is no known successful chemical eradication method for the GSOB; however, the US Forest Service is currently performing a series of potential techniques for effective suppression.



Please see the reverse side of this page for more detailed information about the GSOB.

This is a NO COST service for property owners and offered only in specified areas of San Diego County as determined by the RCD in cooperation with F.A.S.T. Funding for this program is limited and requests for participation will be prioritized according to the level of risk from tree mortality within the geographic location.

Property owners in the priority project area may request removal of “D3” trees on their land, provided the trees meet the specific requirements of the program and the owner agrees to the terms of the tree removal agreement.



Contact the RCD of Greater San Diego County for more information at 619.749.4232 or D3info@rcdsandiego.org

11769 Waterhill Road, Lakeside, CA 92040-2905
www.rcdsandiego.org

PLEASE...DO NOT MOVE OR SELL ANY WOOD FROM YOUR PROPERTY!

Transferring infested firewood from one area to another may introduce GSOB into non-infested areas. It is very important that local agencies and the communities work together to stop the spread of infestation to oak woodlands outside of the immediate problem area. Voluntary quarantine of all infested wood is requested for all area residents and required of all participants in the “D3” Program.

“This 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.”

GENERAL “D3” PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- Participation in the “D3” Program is voluntary by property owners and is strongly encouraged to reduce vegetative fuels loads and further protect lives and property.
- Oak or Pine trees with a minimum 6” trunk diameter will be considered for removal under the “D3” program.
- The RCD will only inspect “D3” trees located within 100’ of habitable structures and primary access/emergency roads for removal. A primary access/emergency road is defined as a paved surface serving three or more properties/residences.
- Trees to be removed on each site will be identified by the RCD’s Forester. Trees selected for removal by the forester will be clearly marked.
- Upon request, participants in the program shall have the option to keep a maximum of 1 cord of the felled wood designated for use as firewood. Retained wood will be required to adhere to specific storage requirements set forth by the US Forest Service. These conditions (listed below) shall be agreed upon by the property owner in writing prior to tree removal.
- Wood left by the contractors at participant's request must be retained, treated and stored on the original property where it was cut. No wood shall be removed from the property, or in any way transferred, sold or given away to other residents.
- Small branches as determined by the RCD's Forester and/or its contractors will be chipped on site and will be spread on the property.
- Any portions of existing fencing on the property that must be temporarily moved to allow access for this project will be moved back by the RCD's contractors.
- As necessary, contractors will install controls to prevent erosion and storm water protection after removing trees in accordance with the standard Forest Practice Rules of California.
- This is a voluntary program both the property owner and the RCD. If you volunteer for the RCD’s “D3” program, please be aware that logistical constraints may prevent the RCD from being able to perform tree removal on your property. This determination will be made upon the RCD’s initial site inspection and you will be notified as soon as your property has been assessed.

WOOD RETENTION & STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

All participants in the RCD's “D3” program who choose to retain wood must agree to the following conditions to help prevent further spread of the Goldspotted Oak Borer infestation:

- The wood shall not be used for any purpose other than firewood/burning or chipping on the property.
- All felled wood must be cut and chipped or burned as soon as possible.
- A maximum of 1 cord of wood will be allowed to remain on the property for firewood/burning
(One cord represents a stack of wood approximately 4 feet wide x 8 feet deep x 4 feet high)
- Oak left on site for use as firewood as requested by the owner will be cut into pieces no larger than 16 inches long by 12 inches wide by the RCD’s contractor.
- Contractors will neatly stack all wood, to the extent possible, in a location with full solar exposure away from all structures and shall completely cover cut wood with 6 mm UV resistant, clear plastic sheeting, with edges pinned or otherwise secured to prevent escape of the borers and loosening by wind. This shall commence for at least one full summer season or until wood is burned, whichever occurs first.
- The wood **MUST** be retained on the property where it was cut and shall not be transported off the property for any reason whatsoever and cannot be sold or given away.
- All wood not left on site will be removed by the contractor to a pre-determined processing site.

