

Kern/Tulare County  
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter  
Action Plan

Statement of Purpose:

The Glassy-winged Sharpshooter is a non-native mobile pest with a wide potential host range that has proven to be a vector of several serious diseases affecting various agricultural crops in California. The members of the Kern/Tulare County Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Task Force developed this Action Plan as a cooperative effort to provide a framework for the members of the Task Force to coordinate activities relating to the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter and Pierce's Disease in Kern and Tulare Counties. The goals of this Task Force include developing mutually beneficial partnerships with agricultural industry stakeholders, the research community, other task forces, and government agencies, in such activities as education, training, and public outreach.

The Kern/Tulare County Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Task Force Action Plan is also meant to provide guidelines for decisions on cooperative activities between Task Force members and the industry regarding surveying and monitoring, as well as delimitation and available control options for Glassy-winged Sharpshooter and Pierce's Disease.

I. Organization and Leadership

- The Kern/Tulare County Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) Task Force will be comprised of representative from commodity groups (grape, citrus, almond), the nursery industry, the County Farm Bureaus, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC) in Kern and Tulare Counties along with the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) and other interested groups that may be identified.
- The Kern/Tulare County Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Task Force program leadership will be provided through its Executive Steering Committee. The Executive Steering Committee will be composed of, but not limited to, three representatives from commodity groups, nursery industry, and one representative from each county of the University of California Cooperative Extension, the Farm Bureau, and the County Agricultural Commissioner.
- The Kern/Tulare GWSS Task Force as new information may amend this Action Plan and CDFA and the research community develop protocols.

II. Coordination, Cooperation and Partnerships

- The Kern/Tulare GWSS Task Force will coordinate partnerships and activities related to GWSS in Kern and Tulare Counties, including those with commodity groups, other local ag-related industries, CDFA, other Counties and regional Task Force.
- The Kern/Tulare GWSS Task Force may develop research partnerships with the University of California and other involved with GWSS/PD research projects.

III. Awareness and Education

- Kern/Tulare County Task Force members will develop an education outreach program for the agricultural and the non-agricultural communities to increase awareness of GWSS/PD.
- The Kern/Tulare County Task Force will coordinate and conduct GWSS/PD workshops to train local PCA's, PCO's, ag industry, and key local public agencies on topics that may include, but are not limited to, GWSS/PD identification, hosts, and the protocol to follow as stated in the Action Plan.
- The Kern/Tulare County Task Force will coordinate outreach with the media to educate the public on GWSS/PD and the Action Plan.
- UCCE and CAC will distribute GWSS education materials as part of an outreach program to the ag industry and the public. These materials will be distributed at such places as commodity meetings, commodity fairs, schools, retail nurseries, etc.
- CAC will send GWSS/PD information to all growers in the County.
- CAC/UCCE will work cooperatively to inform local PCA's and PCO's of new developments in surveying, detection, and control of GWSS/PD.

IV. Survey and Detection

- All suspected GWSS specimens will be sent to the CAC for identification and confirmation by CDFA. UCCE and other Task Force members will notify the CAC if a specimen comes to them.
- CAC will inspect their county pest detection traps for GWSS.
- CAC will seek permission to place yellow sticky traps at sites identified as potential host sites.
- CAC will coordinate and perform visual surveys of nurseries and high-risk agricultural production acreage. In nursery surveys, the highest priority will be given to nurseries regularly receiving plants from GWSS infested areas.
- CAC and UCCE will inform PCA's who regularly monitor orchards and vineyards for pests about the CDFA GWSS/PD detection and treatment protocols as they are developed.

V. Rapid Response/Control

- CAC will notify all Kern/Tulare Task Force members immediately upon CDFA confirmation of a GWSS find in the County.
- CAC will notify CDFA GWSS/PD regional contact staff when GWSS is found.
- CAC will notify the owner of the property where GWSS is found.
- The Kern/Tulare Task Force will seek cooperation from the property owner(s) where GWSS is found.
- CAC will seek permission from the property owner(s) to conduct a delimitation survey in the area of the GWSS find.
- UCCE will advise and give guidelines, if available, regarding GWSS control to PCA's where GWSS is found.

- CAC will work the CDFA to provide biological control agents, as they become available.
- CAC will re-inspect and continue to survey the areas(s) where GWSS was found under the protocol developed by the Task Force.
- CAC will coordinate efforts with other CAC's on GWSS management plans and will update the Task Force as information is obtained.
- If GWSS is found in an area immediately adjacent to another County, CAC will notify the neighboring Agricultural Commissioner to coordinate delimitation and control efforts through the Task Force.

VI. Enforcement and Compliance

- The Kern/Tulare Task Force will work to gain the cooperation of the property owner to address all GWSS/PD concerns.

VII. Resources and Funding

- Task Force members will work together to identify available resources and funding.
- Funding sources should be identified for those growers or property owners who are unable to afford the cost of a control operation.
- The Kern/Tulare Task Force will seek funding for agency activities associated with the GWSS/PD Action Plan.
- Participation in the Action Plan will be performed to the extent that funding is available.