

# News Release

## CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 23, 2008

### Informational Meetings To Be Held On Critical Gold-Spotted Oak Borer Infestation In East County

San Diego, October 23, 2008... For the last seven years, oak species have undergone drastic declines in eastern San Diego County, especially in the vicinity of Descanso and Pine Valley. The gold-spotted oak borer, which is an insect that has recently infested southern California, is believed to be responsible for much of the decline. The feeding habits of the insect directly result in mortality to oaks. Because of this, the Cleveland National Forest will not have oak wood permits available to the public until further notice.

Damage resulting from the gold-spotted oak borer has been found in and around Pine Valley, Guatay, Descanso, the Laguna Mountains, and in Cuyamaca State Park. "It is not only Forest Service lands that have been impacted by the loss of the oak trees," said Will Metz, supervisor of the Cleveland National Forest, "entire communities have been impacted. Based on scientific research that has found a link between the oak borer and tree mortality, the public and our partner agencies can now focus our efforts on saving oak trees throughout San Diego County."

For more information about the gold-spotted oak borer, please call 858-673-6180 or go to [www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland).

#### Information Meetings:

Descanso Town Hall 24536 Viejas Grade Road Descanso, CA <b>October 28</b> <b>Tuesday</b> 6 pm-7:30 pm	Palomar Observatory Outreach Center 35662 Canfield Rd. (former school) Palomar Mtn, CA 92060 <b>October 30</b> <b>Thursday</b> 6pm-7:30pm	Alpine Community Center 1830 Alpine Blvd. Alpine, CA <b>Nov 6</b> <b>Thursday</b> 6pm-7:30pm
Julian Town Hall 2129 Main Street Julian, CA <b>October 29</b> <b>Wednesday</b> 6 pm-7:30 pm	Ramona Community Center 434 Aqua Lane Ramona, CA <b>Nov 4</b> <b>Tuesday</b> 6pm-7:30pm	