
TERR 6 VALLEY ELDERBERRY LONGHORN BEETLE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2001 and 2002, review of existing information, agency consultation, vegetation community mapping, valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB) (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*) habitat mapping, and USFWS protocol-level surveys were completed.

During the spring and summer of 2003, surveys for VELB habitat (i.e., elderberry shrubs located below 3,000 feet in elevation) were conducted at additional Project facilities that were identified after completion of the 2002 surveys. VELB habitat surveys were conducted in conjunction with special-status plant surveys. There were no elderberry shrubs identified at these additional Project facilities.

2.0 STUDY OBJECTIVES

- Determine the location of VELB habitat (i.e., elderberry shrubs below 3,000 feet) at Project facilities not surveyed in 2002.

3.0 STUDY IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 STUDY ELEMENTS COMPLETED

- Completed surveys for VELB habitat at Project facilities and recreational facilities in the study area, in conjunction with special-status plant surveys.

3.2 OUTSTANDING STUDY ELEMENTS

- Complete surveys for VELB habitat at additional Project facilities identified in 2004.

4.0 STUDY METHODOLOGY

4.1 REVIEW OF EXISTING INFORMATION

Existing documentation on VELB in the study area, was compiled, reviewed, and analyzed. This included a review of: (1) CDFG's *Natural Diversity Database* (CNDDDB; CDFG 2003); (2) *Listing the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle as a Threatened Species with Critical Habitat* (USFWS 1980); (3) USDA-FS's *Threatened, Endangered, and Forest Service Sensitive Species Database for the Terrestrial Species of the Sierra National Forest* (USDA-FS 2001); (4) *USFWS Conservation Guidelines for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle* (USFWS 1999); and other relevant documents included in the 2002 TERR-6, Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Technical Study Report (TSR).

4.2 VELB HABITAT MAPPING

During the spring and summer of 2003, surveys for elderberry shrubs located below 3,000 feet in elevation were conducted at Project facilities and recreational facilities in the study area. The following is a list of locations surveyed for VELB habitat in 2003:

- Trailhead – Logan Meadow
- Mammoth Pool Cabin
- Trailhead – Long Ridge Trailhead and Trail
- Gaging Station 11-2420.00 San Joaquin River above Willow Creek (with cable crossing)
- Gaging Station 11-2465.00 Willow Creek above San Joaquin River (with cable crossing)

Surveys were conducted in conjunction with the special-status plant surveys during the weeks of May 5-11 and July 7-13. Refer to the 2002 TERR-6, Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle TSR for detailed methodology.

5.0 STUDY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

5.1 REVIEW OF EXISTING INFORMATION

There is the potential for VELB to occur in the Project area in elderberry shrubs below 3,000 feet in elevation. The life history and habitat requirements of VELB are described in the 2002 TERR-6, Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle TSR.

5.2 VELB HABITAT MAPPING

Field surveys were conducted in the spring and summer of 2003 in conjunction with the special-status plant surveys. Refer to the 2002 TERR-3, Special-status Plant Populations TSR for survey methodology. There were no elderberry shrubs detected in the 2003 study area.

5.3 USFWS PROTOCOL-LEVEL SURVEYS

There were no elderberry shrubs detected during the VELB habitat mapping surveys in 2003 so protocol-level surveys were not conducted within the 2003 study area.

6.0 LITERATURE CITED

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 2003. Rarefind 2, California Natural Diversity Database. Electronic database. Sacramento, California.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USDA-FS). 2001. Threatened, Endangered, and Forest Service Sensitive Species Database for the Terrestrial Species of the Sierra National Forest. Electronic database.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1980. Listing the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle as a Threatened Species with Critical Habitat. Federal Register 45:52803-52807.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1999. Conservation Guidelines for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, Sacramento, California.