



**City of St. Helena
Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2026 @ 5:30 PM
Carnegie Building
1360 Oak Street, St. Helena CA**

PLEASE NOTE: Any person who wishes to speak regarding an item on the agenda or make a comment under the "Oral Communication" portion of the agenda may do so, but please observe the time limit of four minutes.

Members of the public and other parties are welcome to email their comments to the Staff Liaison Ashley Sylvester at asylvester@cityofstheleena.gov. All public comments must be received three hours prior to the meeting. Public comments received after the deadline will be attached to the item the next business day or soon thereafter. Public comments will not be read out loud but will be publicly available and attached to the online agenda.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Commission Chair: Doug Boesch

Vice Chair: John Thompson

Members: Julie Jenanyan, Denise Nelson, Stephanie Smithers

Staff Liaison: Ashley Sylvester, Director of Community Services

3. PUBLIC FORUM

4. REPORTS BY STAFF/COMMITTEE

Reports by staff and/or committee on items of general interest. Brief questions for clarification may be posed and answered, and Committee may request that items be placed on a future agenda. Except under certain circumstances, the Brown Act prohibits any other discussion or action by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

4.1. Parks Maintenance and Operations Update

4.2. Community Services Update

4.3. Ad- Hoc Subcommittee Updates

5. CONSENT ITEMS

5.1. Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2026

5.2. Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2026

6. SCHEDULED ITEMS

6.1. Mediterranean Oak Borer Presentation

6.2. LWCF Grant Application for the Lower Reservoir Park

6.3. Call for Public Art Discussion

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7.1. Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan Staff Implementation Plan

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., Carnegie Building, 1360 Oak Avenue, St. Helena.

This agenda was posted at City Hall, 1088 College Avenue, St. Helena on April 17, 2025 and Carnegie Building, 1360 Oak Avenue.

Ashley Sylvester, Director of Community Services

In Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please call the City Clerk's Office (707) 967-2792. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.



ST. HELENA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2025-26 Goals and Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Assignments

1. Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Trails, Open Spaces, & Park Enhancement Strategy) (Nelson, Smithers)
2. Communication & Outreach (Jenanyan, Smithers)
3. Parks & Recreation Grants (*Thompson*)
4. Cross-Community Integration & Partnerships (Boeschen)
5. Arts & Culture (Jenanyan & Nelson)

Updated September 2025



ST. HELENA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2025-26 PARK ASSIGNMENTS

- Wappo, Jacob Meily (Thompson)
- Lyman Park, Stonebridge, Hunt (Nelson)
- Crane (Boeschen, Jenanyan)
- Mary Fryer, Mennen, Starr Baldwin, Lewis Station,
McCullah (Smithers)

City of St. Helena
Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 16,2026 @ 5:30pm
Carnegie Building-Second Floor
1360 Oak Avenue

Present: Chair Doug Boesch, Vice Chair John Thompson, Commissioner Julie Jenayan,
Commissioner Stephanie Smithers, Commissioner Denise Nelson

Absent: None

1. CALL TO ORDER: 5:31pm

2. ROLL CALL

Chair: Doug Boesch

Vice Chair: John Thompson

Members: Stephanie Smithers, Julie Jenayan, Denise Nelson

Staff Liaison: Ashley Sylvester, Director of Community Services

3. PUBLIC FORUM

- Public Comment from Rachael Clark
- Public Comment from Tracy McBride
- Public Comment from Beverly Davies
- Public Comment from Anthony Michelli
- Public Comment from Jim Sweeney

4. REPORTS BY STAFF AND COMMISSION

4.1 Park Maintenance Update

- Director of Public Works Joe Leach gave an update on the Lower Reservoir Park Grant Application
- Operations Manager Carlos Uribe gave update on park maintenance and clean up underway in St. Helena Parks
- Irrigation being installed in the Elm Street tunnel
- Arbor Day will be April 22nd
- Commissioner Smithers directs question to Director Leach regarding the Lower Reservoir Grant, additional question to Operations Manager Uribe regarding Baldwin and Crane Park Maintenance
- Commissioner Thompson asked question regarding the trees on Main Street and when they would be replaced

4.2 Community Services Update

- Director Sylvester gave an update on Spring and Summer Programs being live online
- Staffing update on the open recruitment for the Recreation Coordinator Position
- Special Events Update for Community Services Department
- Community Forest update on staffing meetings continuing to take place on this item

5. CONSENT ITEMS

5.1 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2026

- Motion: Commissioner Jenanyan; Second: Vice Chair Thompson
 - Unanimously Approved

6. SCHEDULED MATTERS:

6.1 Gordon Huether Art Project

- Director Sylvester gave presentation on the Gordon Huether Art Project and recap of report to council and direction given by council for the Parks and Recreation Commission
- Commissioners asked clarifying questions regarding the art project process
- Public Comment from Laurie Joyce
- Public Comment from Kathy Pimpan
- Public Comment from Pat Friday
- Public Comment from Chris Warner
- Public Comment from Norma P.
- Public Comment from Ray (last name not recorded)
- Public Comment from Lisa Pelosi
- Public Comment from Tamara Sorenson
- Public Comment from Colleen Galaspi
- Public Comment from Katie S.
- Public Comment from Rachael Clark
- Public Comment from Michelle Covell
- Public Comment from Ana Canalas
- Public Comment from Norm Manzer
- Public Comment from Elaine de Man
- Public Comment from Pam Smithers
- Public Comment from Nancy Willis

- Public Comment from Catherine Dan
- Commissioners express their views on the project and voice the concern of process not being followed
- Vice Chair Thompson motions for this to be sent back to council to start over and follow the public art policy process and open for another artist to also apply.
- Motion: Thompson; Second: Nelson
- Unanimously approved motion

6.2 Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan Recommendation

- This item has been moved to a special meeting scheduled for April 9, 2026

6.3 Ad- Hoc Subcommittee Updates

- Commissioners Jenanyan and Nelson gave updates on the Arts and Culture Subcommittee
- Commissioner Thompson gave an update on meeting with staff at Wappo Park

7. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

MINUTES
City of St. Helena
Special Meeting Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2026 @ 5:30 PM
City Hall- Main Conference Room
1088 College Ave., St. Helena CA

Present: Board Member Julie Jenayan, Board Member Stephanie Smithers, Board Member John Thompson

Absent: Board Member Doug Boesch, Board Member Denise Nelson

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Commission Chair: Doug Boesch

Vice Chair: John Thompson

Members: Julie Jenayan, Denise Nelson, Stephanie Smithers

Staff Liaison: Ashley Sylvester, Director of Community Services

3. PUBLIC FORUM

3.1. Public Comment

- Public Comment from Elaine de Man

4. REPORTS BY STAFF/COMMITTEE

Reports by staff and/or committee on items of general interest. Brief questions for clarification may be posed and answered, and Committee may request that items be placed on a future agenda. Except under certain circumstances, the Brown Act prohibits any other discussion or action by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

4.1. Park Maintenance Update

- Item to be moved to April 20th Meeting

4.2. Community Services Update

- Item to be moved to April 20th Meeting

5. CONSENT ITEMS

5.1. FUTURE REVIEW AT APRIL 20, 2026, MEETING: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2026

- No Further Discussion

6. SCHEDULED ITEMS

6.1. Parks, Recreation & Trails Master Plan

Prepared By: Mara Strickler, City Librarian

Recommendation: Provide feedback regarding key findings and final draft of the Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan

- City Staff introduced the item.
- Presentation Received from BluePoint Planning Consultant
- Commissioner Smithers, Thompson, and Jenanyan asked clarifying questions.
- Public Comment Received from Pam Smithers
- Public Comment Received from Elaine de Man
- Commissioners support the Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan to move forward to council.
- Master Plan will be presented to City Council for adoption at the April 28th Meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for April 20 at 5:30 p.m., Carnegie Building, 1360 Oak Avenue.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:31pm

APPROVED:

Doug Boeschen, Chair

ATTEST:

Ashley Sylvester, Staff Liaison



Mediterranean Oak Borer Pest Complex

An Invasive Threat to Valley, Blue and Oregon Oaks



Dr. Curtis Ewing, CA Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection (Cal Fire)
Forest Entomology & Pathology Program

Topics Covered

- **California Distribution**
- **California Hosts**
- **What MOB Looks Like**
- **Associated Wilt Fungi**
- **Host Damage**
- **MOB Life Cycle**
- **MOB Dispersal**
- **Long Term Tree Monitoring**

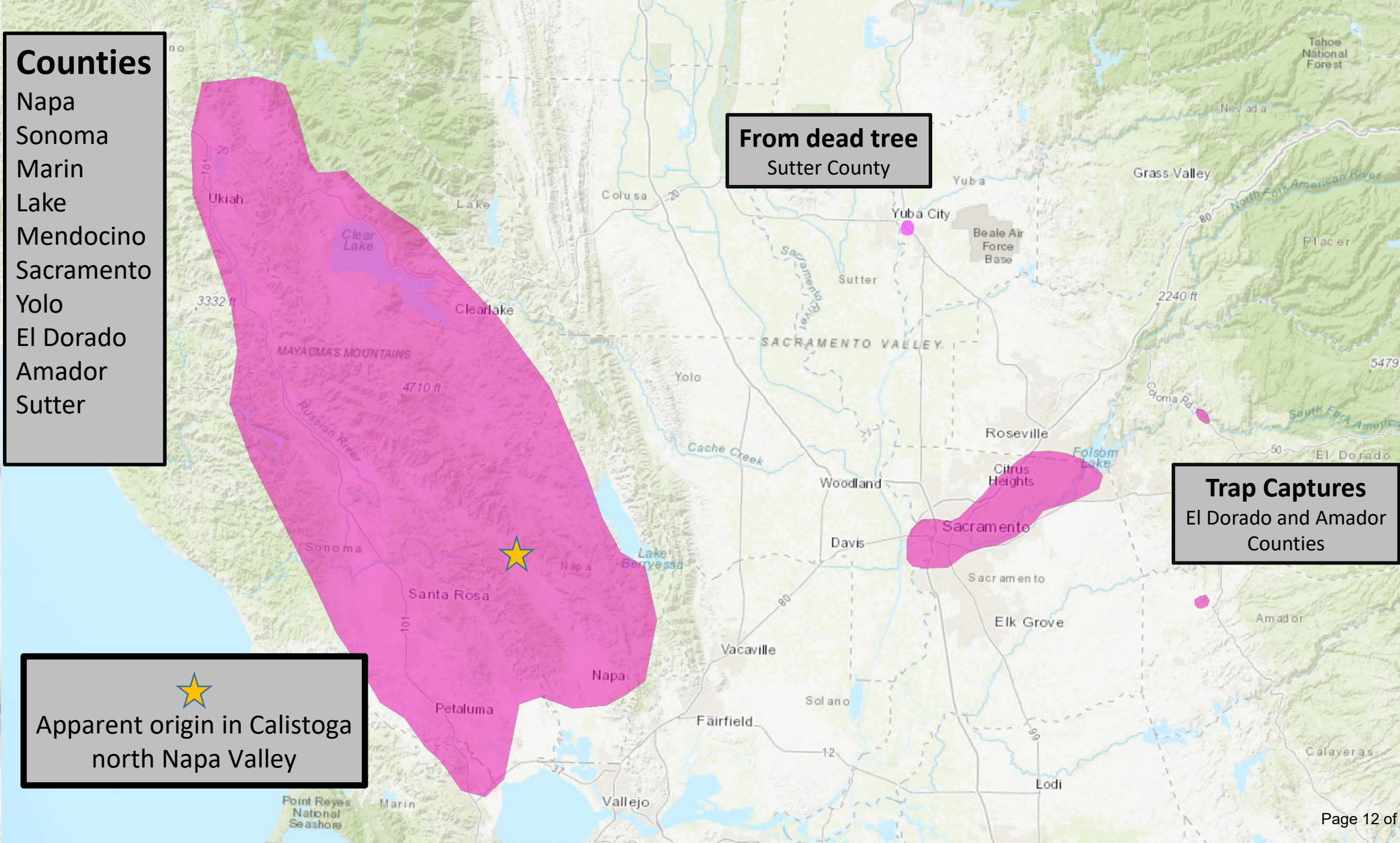
Counties

Napa
Sonoma
Marin
Lake
Mendocino
Sacramento
Yolo
El Dorado
Amador
Sutter

From dead tree
Sutter County

Trap Captures
El Dorado and Amador
Counties

★
Apparent origin in Calistoga
north Napa Valley



Topics Covered

- California Distribution
- **California Hosts**
- What MOB Looks Like
- Associated Wilt Fungi
- Host Damage
- MOB Life Cycle
- MOB Dispersal
- Long Term Tree Monitoring

Host Trees of *X. monographus*

- **Primary Hosts**

- **Valley oak** (Primary host)
 - *Q. lobata*
- **Blue oak** (Less common)
 - *Q. douglasii*
- **Oregon white oak**
 - *Q. garryana*
 - (rarely attacks)

- **Elevation Limited**

- Most common below 1,500 ft.
- 1,950 ft. Mt St. Helena
 - Heavily infested
- 2,000 ft. limit in Europe



Valley Oak



Oregon White Oak



Blue Oak



Topics Covered

- California Distribution
- California Hosts
- **What MOB Looks Like**
- Associated Wilt Fungi
- Host Damage
- MOB Life Cycle
- MOB Dispersal
- Long Term Tree Monitoring

FEMALE

- *Xyleborus monographus* is an invasive pest native to Europe-Middle East – Atlas Mts. North Africa
- In Napa for at least 15-20 yrs.
 - Probably more

Mouth with
fungus storage
structure



- Female 3.1 mm
- Winged, disperse after mating
 - 0.7 mm lead

MALE

- Males 2.25 mm (2.0 – 2.5 mm)
 - Flightless – reduced flight wings
 - Horn on pronotum



Pronotal
Horn



Topics Covered

- California Distribution
- California Hosts
- What MOB Looks Like
- **Associated Wilt Fungi**
- Host Damage
- MOB Life Cycle
- MOB Dispersal
- Long Term Tree Monitoring

Associated Fungi – Pathogens

Akif Eskalen, UC Davis & Albre Brown, CDFA

- Multiple fungi isolated from beetles and galleries, 100 days of growth
- Slow spreading wilt fungus
- Wilt fungi clog water transport in sap wood
- Leaves become stunted, eventually turn brown and die
- Three primary pathogens isolated (UC Davis)
 - *Raffaelea montetyi* ~5/8 inch
 - Most common fungus isolated in Europe
 - Shown to be pathogenic to cork oak in Europe
 - *Fusarium* sp. 5/8 inch
 - *Fusarium solani* ~5/8 inch



PHOTO: Akif Eskalen

Staining 100 days post inoculation

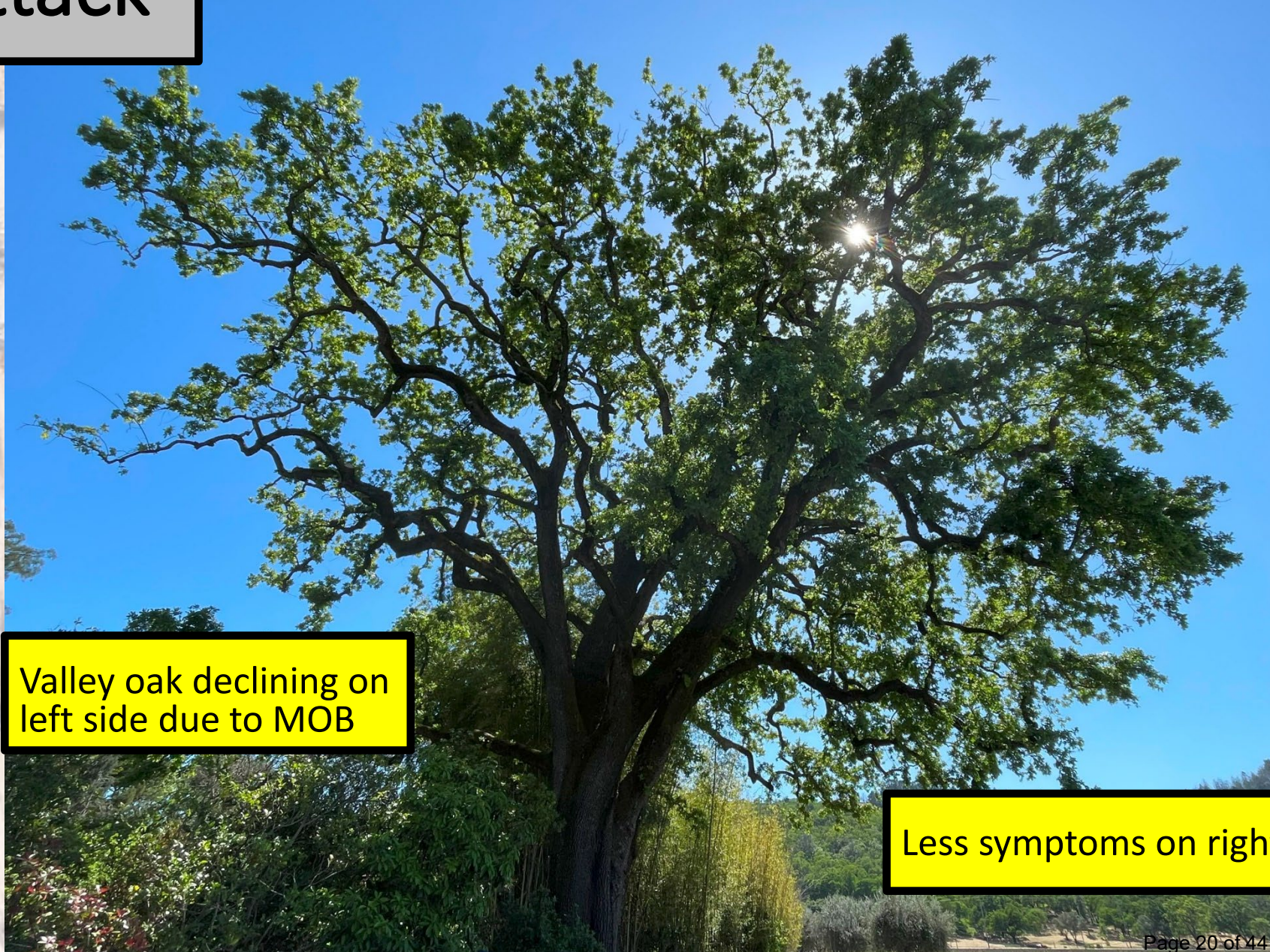
Control

Topics Covered

- California Distribution
- California Hosts
- What MOB Looks Like
- Associated Wilt Fungi
- **Host Damage**
- MOB Life Cycle
- MOB Dispersal
- Long Term Tree Monitoring

Symptoms of Attack

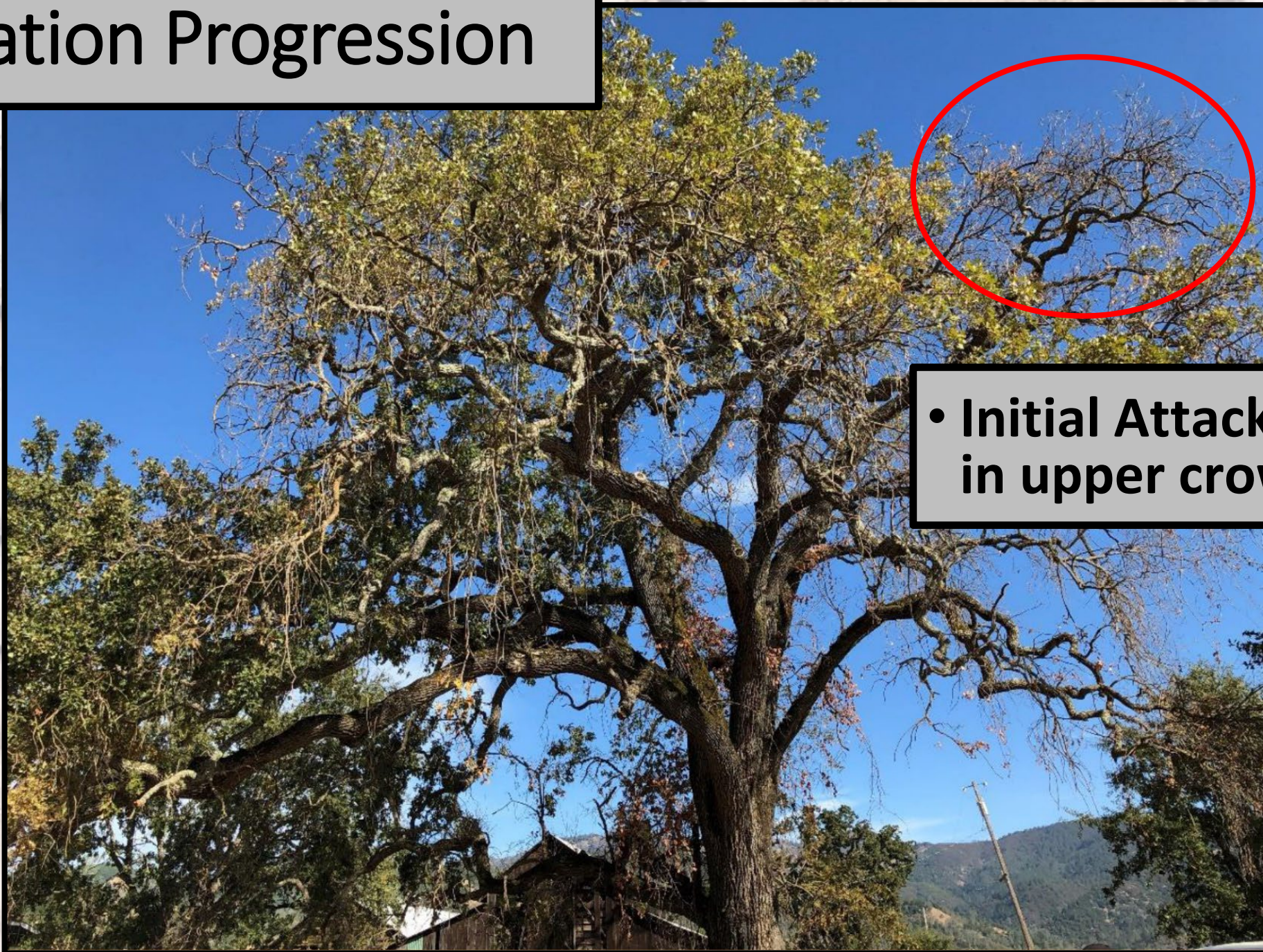
- Usually declines top down on one side
- Stunted leaves in apical clumps
- Declining limb symptoms can have many causes



Valley oak declining on left side due to MOB

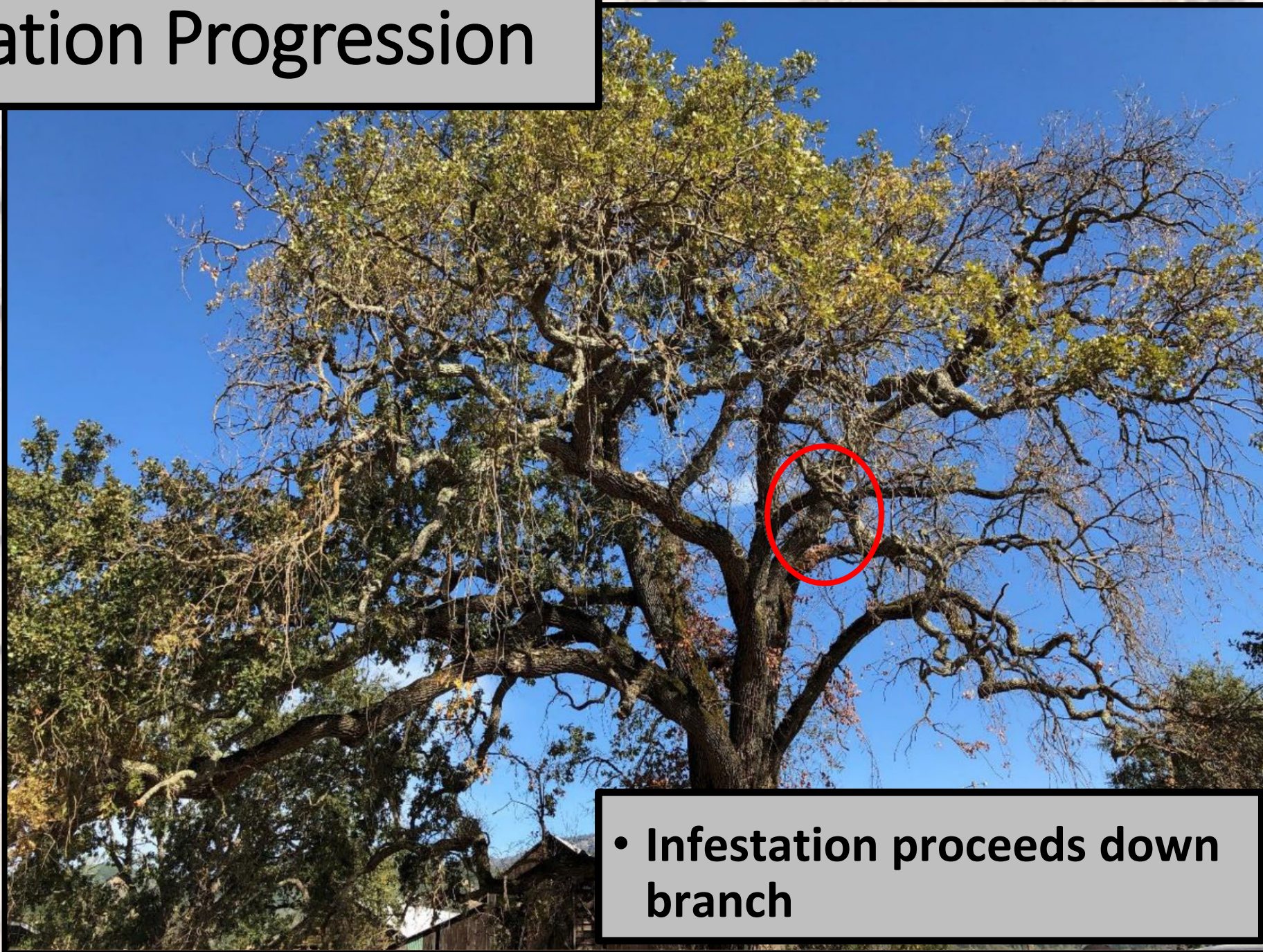
Less symptoms on right

Infestation Progression



- Initial Attack usually in upper crown

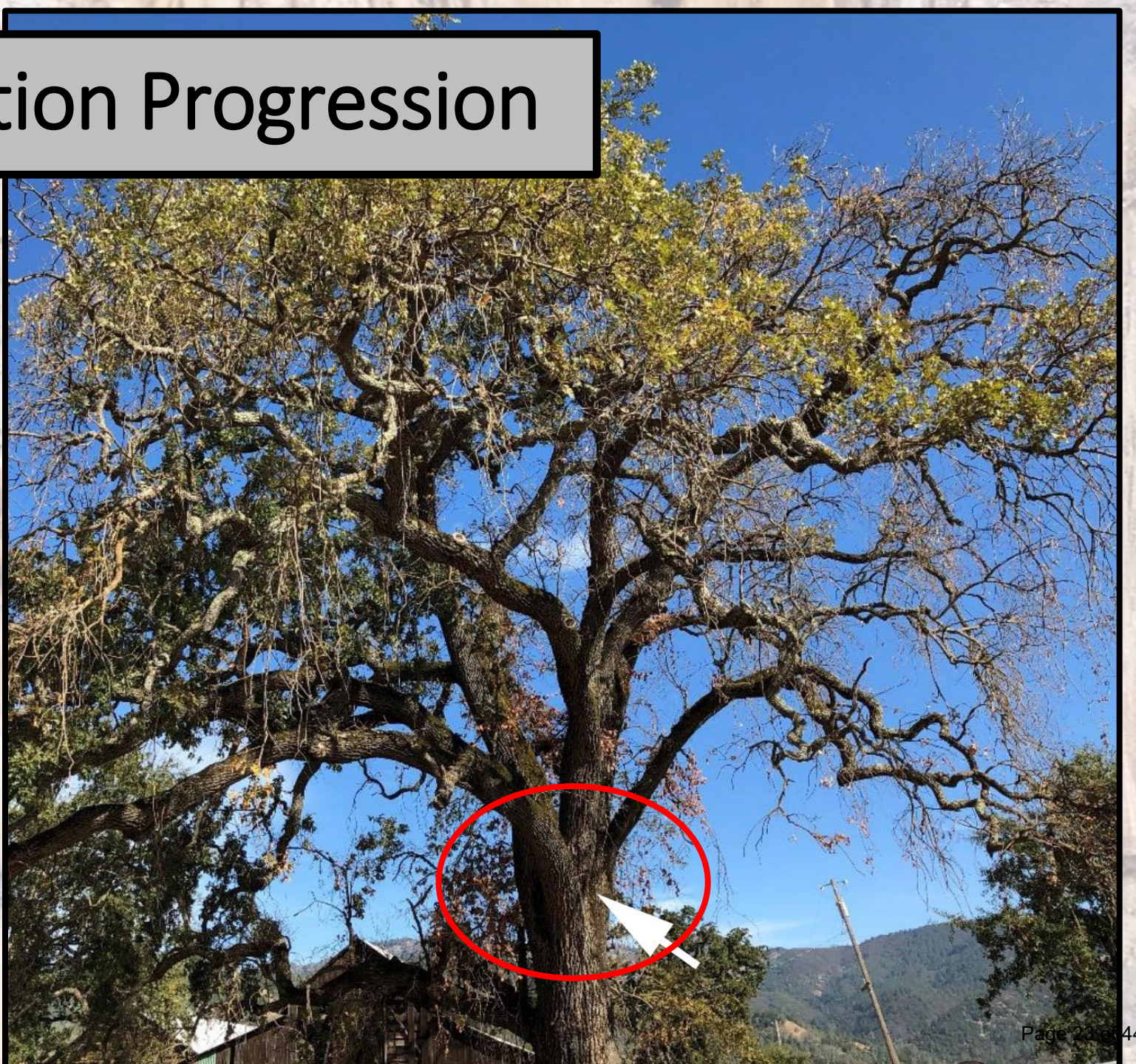
Infestation Progression



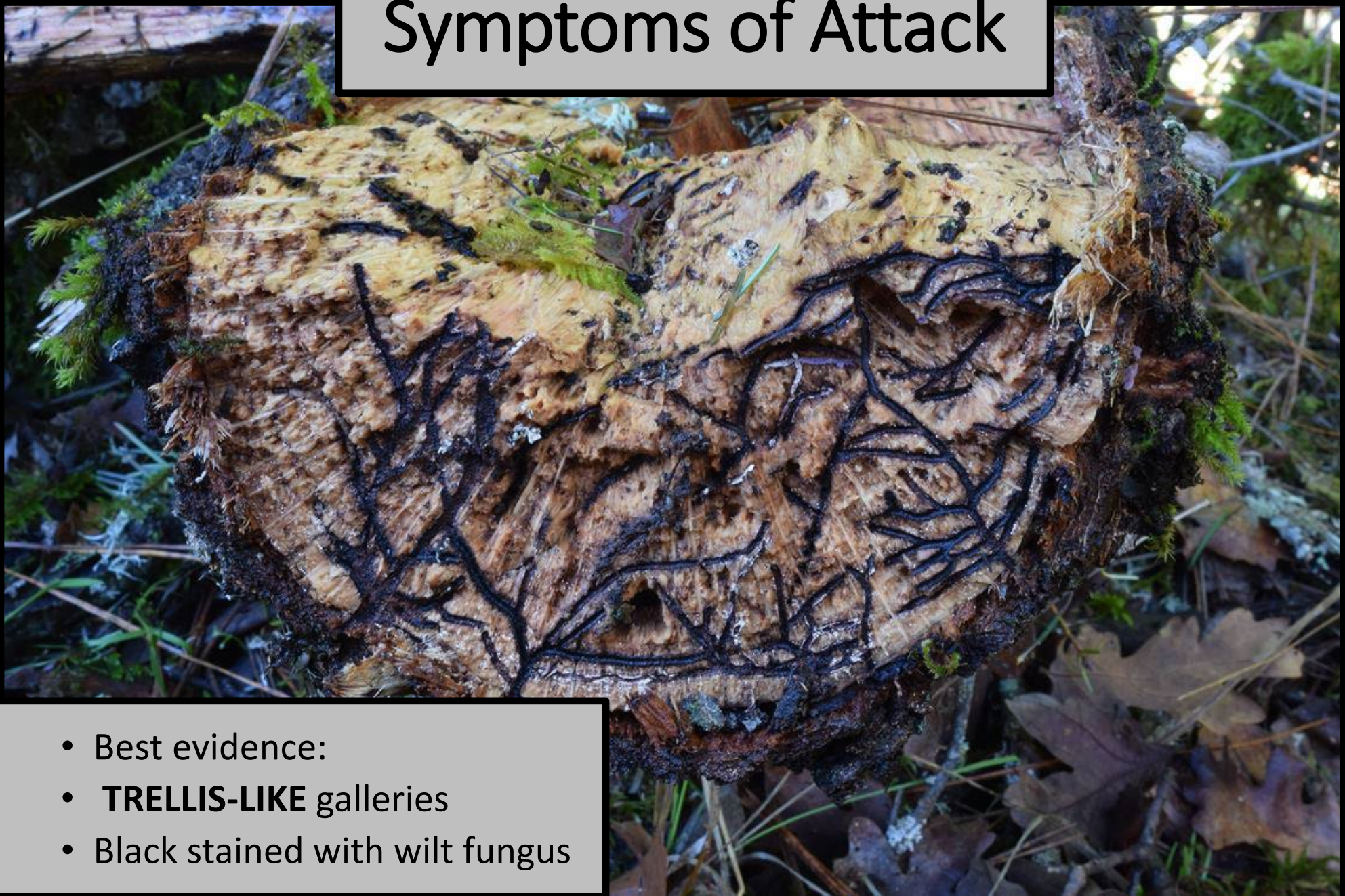
- Infestation proceeds down branch

Infestation Progression

- Reaches area where main branches meet on main bole
 - Girdles tree, full wilt can appear to be very sudden
- **Attack → Full Wilt** in large trees require at least 5 or more years



Symptoms of Attack



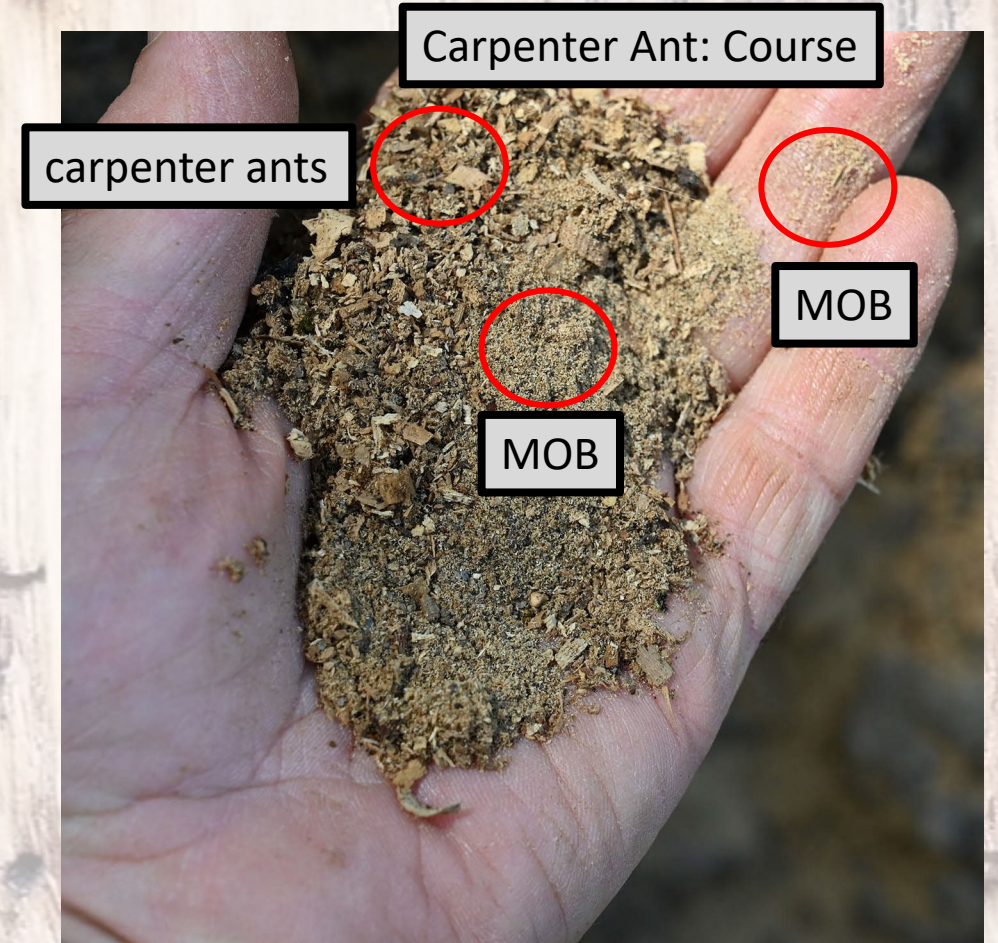
- Best evidence:
- **TRELLIS-LIKE** galleries
- Black stained with wilt fungus

Symptoms of Attack

- Bole Symptoms
 - Usually the last part of the tree attacked
 - Boring dust on bark and trapped in webs



Symptoms of Attack



Symptoms of Attack



Longitudinal section showing progression of staining from gallery

Fungal staining of active xylem in cross section of bole
Heartwood rarely attacked, most common in limbs <8" diameter



Positive ID of MOB Infestation

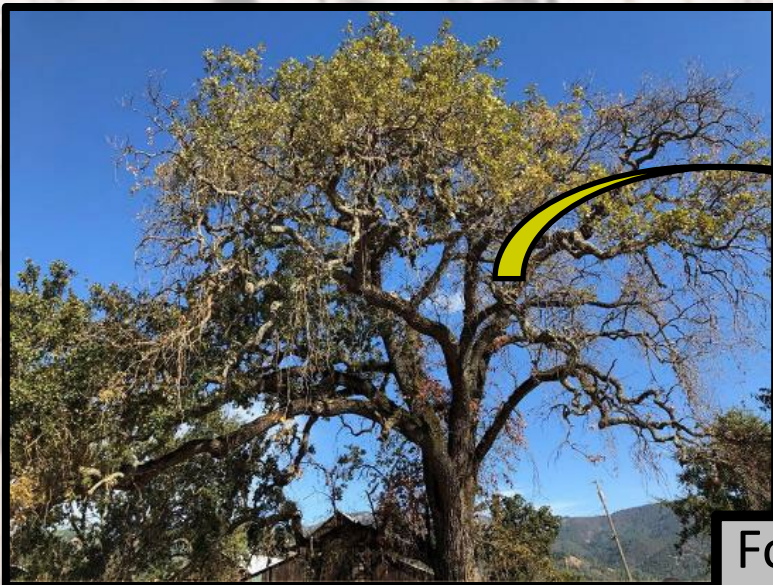
Need the beetle

Or the distinctive Gallery Architecture



Topics Covered

- California Distribution
- California Hosts
- What MOB Looks Like
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- Host Damage
- **MOB Life Cycle**
- MOB Dispersal
- Long Term Tree Monitoring



Foundress
Inoculates
Tree with fungi

Foundress
Excavates
new galleries



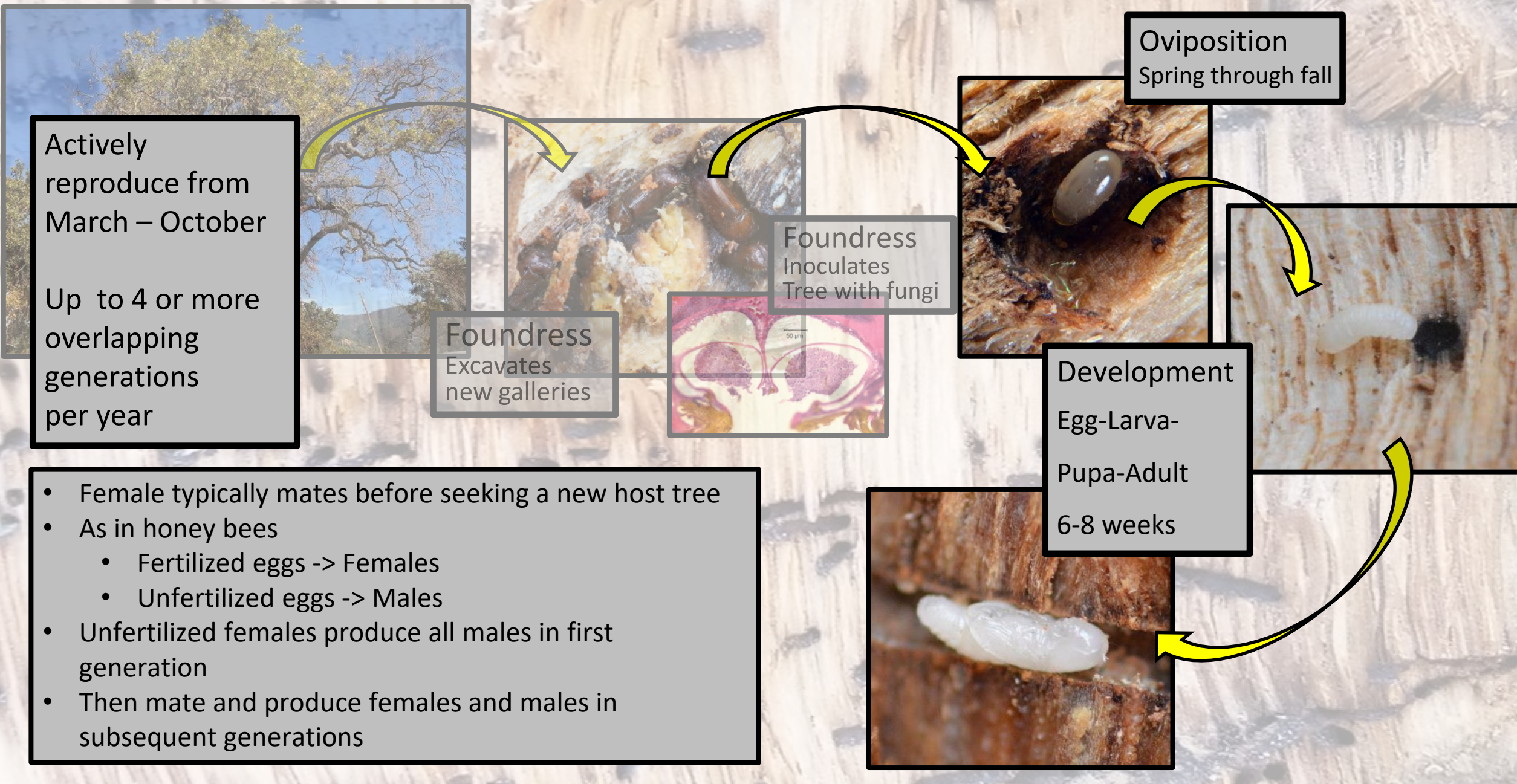
Peak Spring Dispersal
Temperature Dependent
As many as 300+/trap

- 2020 End of May
- 2021 Early April
- 2022 End of March
- 2023 End of April
- 2024 Early April

Highly variable year to year:
From the end of March to the end of May

NON-PEAK
Any time of year when
>75° F for long enough

Typically
1 to maybe a dozen per
trap



Actively
reproduce from
March – October

Up to 4 or more
overlapping
generations
per year

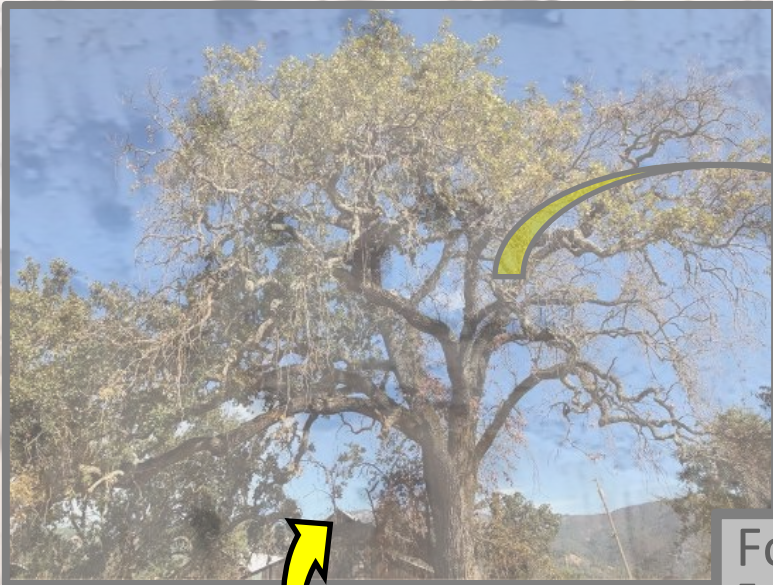
- Female typically mates before seeking a new host tree
- As in honey bees
 - Fertilized eggs -> Females
 - Unfertilized eggs -> Males
- Unfertilized females produce all males in first generation
- Then mate and produce females and males in subsequent generations

Foundress
Excavates
new galleries

Foundress
Inoculates
Tree with fungi

Oviposition
Spring through fall

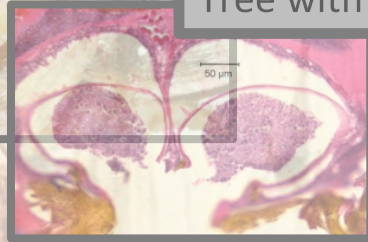
Development
Egg-Larva-
Pupa-Adult
6-8 weeks



Foundress
Excavates
new galleries



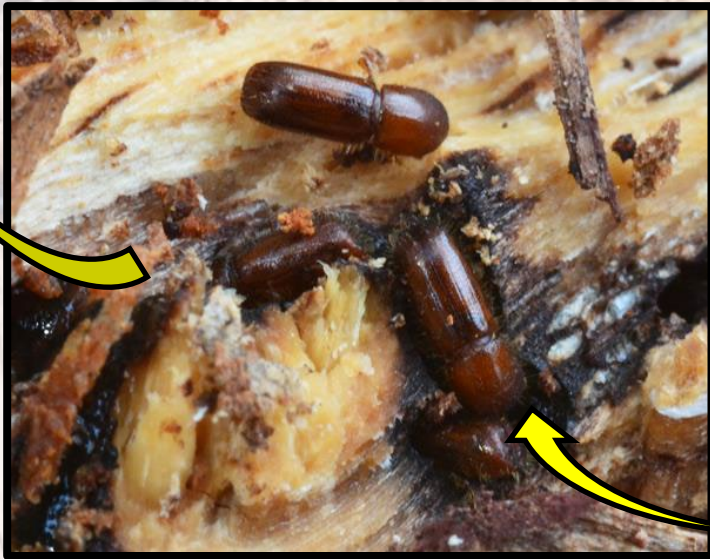
Foundress
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Oviposition
Spring through fall



Development
Egg-Larva-
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6-8 weeks



Topics Covered

- California Distribution
- California Hosts
- What MOB Looks Like
- Associated Wilt Fungi
- Host Damage
- MOB Life Cycle
- **MOB Dispersal**
- Long Term Tree Monitoring

Spring Dispersal

- **In the Summer and Fall:** infested waste wood is full of females ready to disperse **THE FOLLOWING SPRING**
- Most of the females have mated prior to dispersal and can establish new infestations with eggs developing into females and males

- Continue to reproduce in tree for 5-10+ years
- One long single or multipeak “spring” dispersal period observed
- 2020 End of May
- 2021 Early April
- 2022 End of March
- 2023 End of April
- 2024 Early April
- 2025 (data not fully analyzed yet) late April through May



Invasive Species Can Efficiently Disperse in Cut Wood and Green Waste



Topics Covered

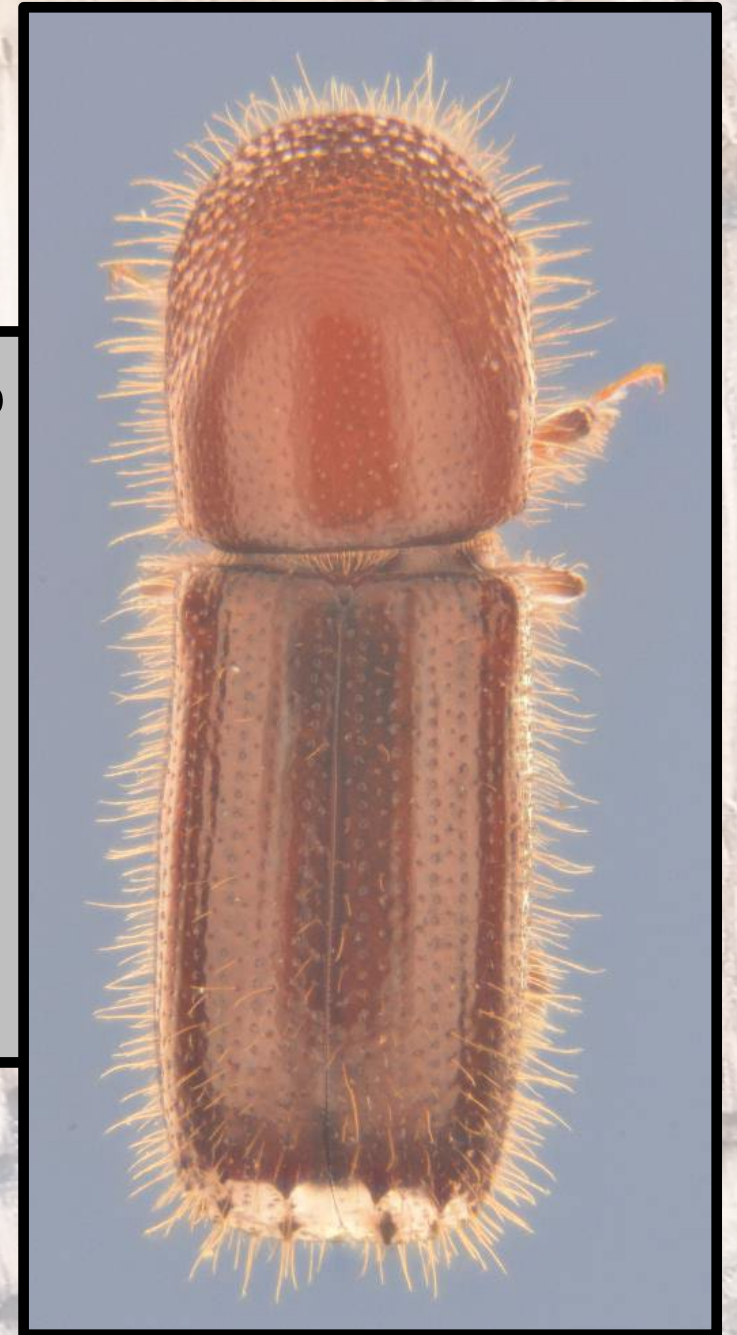
- California Distribution
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- **Long Term Tree Monitoring**

Tagged Trees

Napa-Valley Oaks

Burned vs. Unburned All 3 White Oak spp.

- Nov. 2020: tagged 185 valley oaks in St. Helena and Calistoga to track spread and decline
- Leaf break 2021: Randomly select plots within (126 trees)
 - infested vs. uninfested forest
 - burned vs. unburned forest (Glass Fire, Bothe NVSP/Bale GMHSP & Trione-Annadel SP)
- Track health of valley oaks, blue oaks, & Oregon white oaks
- Continuing to evaluate bole and crown annually
- Identify resistant trees???



Middletown Hwy

3 Long Term Monitoring Plots

Calistoga Wastewater
Treatment
Dunawood Ln



- Originally estimated at least 3-5 years from attack to mortality
- Looks like it is often much longer
- Given rate of decline observed many valley oaks may last 10 years or more post-infestation

St Helena Hwy and Whitehall Ln

Long Term Monitoring Plots

- **Valley oaks**
 - **Calistoga & St. Helena (Napa Valley)**
 - **187 trees tagged in 2020**
- **Assigned crown to 6 BINs in 25% increments of decline**
 - **1=0%, 2=1-25%, 3=26-50%, 4=51-75%, 5=76-99%, 6=Dead**
- **6 years of data (2020-2025)**
 - **Majority of trees infested in 2020 still alive**
 - **2 apparently dead in 2024 put out epicormic growth in 2025**
 - **2 trees alive in 2024 appear dead in 2025**
- **Very little change from 2024**
 - **Caution: Evaluations somewhat subjective**
 - **Trees Declined: 1 tree each declined 4, 3, and 2 bins from 2024 to 2025**
 - **23 declined 1 bin**
 - **Unchanged: 75 trees**
 - **Improved: 40 trees (1 bin), 10 trees (2 bins), 3 trees (3 bins)**

132 Total Valley Oaks at Calistoga Water Treatment Plant Tagged and Canopy Evaluated in 2020, Plan to Evaluate Annually to at Least 2030



Burned-Unburned Plots

- 5 years of data (2021-2025)
- Valley, blue and Oregon white oaks
- Napa & Sonoma
- No evidence of elevated MOB attack in burned plots
- Mortality appears to be due to cambium damage in burned plots

September 27, 2020

Napa County
St. Helena
Bothe-Napa Valley SP
&
Bale Grist Mill SP

September 28, 2020

Sonoma County
Santa Rosa
Trione-Annadel SP

Glass Fire
September 2020

Long Term Monitoring Plots

- **White Oaks**
 - **126 trees tagged**
- **Assigned crown BINs in 25% increments same as long term plots**
- **5 years of data (2021-2025)**
 - **Majority of trees tagged in 2021 still alive**
 - **1 died since 2024, was almost dead in 2024 in unburned plot**
- **77 unchanged**
- **7 declined**
 - **Burned plots: 2 trees declined 2 bins and 2 trees declined 1 bin**
 - **Unburned plots: 3 trees declined 1 bin**
- **40 improved: 32 trees improved 1 bin and 8 trees improved 2 bins**

MOB Management Options

- **Don't Move Firewood!**
- Remove infested trees – chip infested wood ≤ 3 inch
- Bury
- Burn
- Website: www.ucanr.edu/sites/mobpc/
- Chemical options are being investigated
 - 2 PLOTS: Napa & Windsor
- Resistant trees?

END