

Help us combat this invasive pest!



Volunteer with The Nat and the San Diego River Park Foundation.

They may be small, but Kuroshio and Polyphagous Shot Hole Borers are doing big damage in San Diego.

These invasive beetles threaten our fragile river woodlands. They infest willows and sycamores, leaving dead, broken trunks in their wake.

We need volunteers to help monitor Shot Hole Borer presence in the San Diego River Watershed. All that's needed is experience exploring the great outdoors—no background in science required.



the nat

SAN DIEGO
NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM



Source: J. Boland

San Diego River: Beetle Monitoring FAQ

How much of a time commitment is this? We need volunteers that can commit to three days (Aug 25 from 9am-2pm for a training and trap deployment; Sep 22 is a mid-point check at a time of your choice that should not take more than one hour; Oct 20 for 2-4 hours to collect traps and bring to The NAT to see what was at your site under the microscope).

What will I be doing? The first day will be training and trap installation. You should be capable of swinging a hammer to drive a short length of rebar into the ground. The rebar will support a length of metal conduit to which you will attach a large sticky trap and beetle lure. You'll capture some details about the site and you are done for the day. The September mid-point check is just to make sure everything is still standing upright and not destroyed. We'll need you to submit an email update on your traps' status. For the October date, you will pick up the traps and bring them to The Nat. If you want, we will have microscopes available for you to look at your traps. Otherwise, you are done!

Can I do this alone? We want pairs of volunteers to work together on installing, monitoring, and picking up traps. If you don't have a buddy to partner with, we can help you find one.

Do I need any special equipment? Each team will need a hammer or metal mallet and gloves (leather or fabric) to install the rebar, if you can bring one or have several to share with others, great! If not, that will not prevent your involvement. We will supply you with the rest of the monitoring equipment that you need. Reliable transportation will be necessary, as many of these sites are not easily accessed via public transportation. (see below on what to wear)

What sort of experience do I need to have? No science or entomology experience required. You should be comfortable and experienced in the outdoors. Be aware that these sites are along the San Diego River with habitat in various conditions. You should be comfortable in identifying and avoiding field hazards like poison oak, rattlesnakes, as well as human hazards like broken glass, and hazardous waste.

What should I wear? Wear what you wear if you were going hiking in an area where you might encounter poison oak. We recommend good hiking boots, long pants, and long-sleeved shirt.

Why get involved? We cannot combat invasive species until we understand where they occur. Your observations will be shared with wildlife and government professionals and will help inform how San Diego tackles this invasive pest.

Contact steffani@sandiegoriver.org to get involved.

- Registration ends August 23 at noon, or until capacity is reached, whichever comes first.

Tijuana River Valley before and after shot-hole beetle infestation

