

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE - SPOTLIGHT SPECIES 5-YEAR  
ACTION PLAN  
2010-2014**

**Common Name:** Valley elderberry longhorn beetle

**Scientific Name:** *Desmocerus californicus dimporhus*

**Lead Region:** Pacific Southwest Region - 8

**Lead Field Office:** Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office

**Species Information:**

**Status:** Threatened

**Recovery Priority Number:** Reclassification Priority Number 2

**Recovery Plan:** Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Recovery Plan, June 28, 1984

**Most Recent 5-year Review:** Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimporhus*) 5-Year Review, September 2006

**Other:**

1. Conservation guidelines for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (1988, 1994, 1996, 1999)
2. The distribution, habitat, and status of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle *Desmocerus californicus dimporhus* (1991)
3. Listing the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle as a Threatened Species with Critical Habitat (August 8, 1980; 45 FR 52803 52807)

Threats identified in listing rule and subsequently:

1. Factor A
  - a. Historic loss of riparian habitat in the Central Valley of California
  - b. Current habitat loss due to levee and canal maintenance, flood control projects, and urbanization
2. Factor B – no current threats
3. Factor C
  - a. Competition and predation from the invasive Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*)
  - b. Possible predation by birds, lizards, and European earwigs
4. Factor D
  - a. State and Federal laws provide some protection but may not always be adequate to prevent the loss and degradation of beetle habitat
5. Factor E
  - a. Population fragmentation leading to susceptibility to

- i. Random environmental events
  - ii. Random demographic events
  - iii. Genetic bottlenecks and inbreeding depression
- b. Commonly used insecticides, herbicides, and pesticides may be toxic to elderberry longhorn beetles

**Target:** Species delisting. Valley elderberry longhorn beetle-specific conservation actions have resulted in the protection of 50,000 acres of riparian habitat and the restoration of 1,500 acres of beetle habitat. Additionally, the number of occurrences has increased from 10 locations known in 1980 to 190 known in 2006. Therefore, the 2006 5-Year Review recommended delisting of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle. A delisting rule is currently being reviewed by the Washington Office.

**Measure:**

1. Delisting of valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

**Actions:** Since a proposed delisting rule is currently being reviewed, the following action is aimed at monitoring valley elderberry longhorn beetle populations following delisting.

1. Assess status, patch occupancy and local turnover of valley elderberry longhorn beetle in representative locations, distributed across the known geographic range of the beetle and establish baseline to determine local population trends. Particular effort should be directed towards documenting the beetle's status in the San Joaquin Valley.

**Identify responsible parties:**

1. Role of other agencies: N/A
2. Role of other ESA programs: N/A
3. Role of other FWS programs: N/A
4. Other: Post-delisting monitoring will be conducted in collaboration with the University of California, Davis.

*Estimated costs of the actions:* \$80,000

**Additional funding analysis:**

If additional funding became available, we would fund the development of a long-term post-delisting monitoring plan. The plan should involve monitoring of all known sites and include potential habitat throughout the Central Valley. Surveys should include upland areas to determine whether this is appropriate beetle habitat. Surveys should also include an assessment of the amount and quality of available beetle habitat.

FIELD OFFICE APPROVAL:

Approve *pm Cullington* Date 7.29.09

*sm* Susan K. Moore  
Field Supervisor  
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office

REGIONAL OFFICE CONCURRENCE

Approve *miller* Date 8/27/09