

## Final Report to the Interstate Pest Control Compact

prepared by the

Washington State Department of Agriculture

January 2003

In late 2001, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), a party to the Interstate Pest Control Compact (IPCC), requested financial assistance from the Pest Control Insurance Fund for the purpose of taking emergency action against a newly introduced exotic pest in Tukwila, Washington – the citrus longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora chinensis*). We recognized at the time that citrus longhorned beetle (CLHB) is considered a dangerous orchard pest in its native countries because it can infest and kill a variety of hardwoods, including apple, pear, and citrus and that here in Washington, pome fruit production, which is a billion dollar industry, would be significantly impacted by a tree-killing beetle.

The following items from the original 2001 request were acceptable to the IPCC:

- ❖ WSDA and its cooperators will conduct host-tree surveys for signs of CLHB infestation from 2001 through 2006 in Tukwila, Washington using WSDA personnel, Forest Service smoke jumpers (tree climbers), and bucket trucks.
- ❖ WSDA and its cooperators will implement and administer regulatory action, such as a quarantine, to prevent artificial spread of CLHB via trees (such as nursery stock), firewood, and tree cuttings from the Tukwila, Washington area in 2001 and possibly through 2006 depending on survey results.

The IPCC granted the requested financial assistance with the understanding that the assistance would be applied to detection surveys and quarantine implementation & administration.

### Materials and Methods

Host tree surveys – Year 1, Phase 1: Host tree surveys began in late 2001 once we knew the extent of potential host tree species attacked by CLHB. The area to be surveyed in Tukwila consisted of residential properties, some business locations, and park and other undeveloped greenbelt areas. Because the business location where the beetles emerged was in close proximity to the greenbelt areas, survey efforts in late 2001 and early 2002 targeted these areas in addition to residential locations. Though the greenbelt areas contained numerous host trees, these areas typically had an understory comprised of immense blackberry thickets. Consequently, survey crews were obligated to spend considerable time cutting trails through the blackberry just to reach the trees.

## Quarantine Implementation and Administration

Concurrent with Phase 1 host tree surveying, WSDA began working to establish a quarantine to reduce the artificial spread of CLHB. The state of Washington enacted a quarantine through emergency rulemaking authority on November 27, 2001 which regulated movement of CLHB, raw wood materials, and 34 genera of host plants. The quarantine area, which was 0.5 mile radius, became permanent through rulemaking on April 17, 2002.

In part because burning of yard debris is prohibited and – more importantly – to help residents comply with the quarantine, WSDA made arrangements with the City of Tukwila to organize the first “chipper day” in January 2002. Residents from within the quarantine area were notified that they could bring tree and shrub trimmings to the local high school (within the quarantine area) and have the material chipped at no charge to them.

WSDA held a chipper day on the third Saturday of each month thereafter and the efforts were well received. In addition to the chipping itself, we used each opportunity to educate the public about the CLHB threat. We believe that this aided compliance with the quarantine as much as providing the chipping service.

For safety reasons, but perhaps more importantly, for the ability to more effectively administer the quarantine with equipment actually under our control, WSDA utilized a portion of the funding received from the Pest Control Insurance Fund to purchase its own chipper in Spring 2002. With this resource, we were able to continue to conduct chipper days, but also perform on-site chipping operations – known as “mobile chips”. In 2002, we conducted about 45 “mobile chips”.

### Host tree surveys – Year 1, Phase 2:

Following the removal of 1000 significant (dbh>4”) trees within the center of the quarantine area and the imicide injection of about 1500 surrounding trees during July and August 2002, WSDA began intensively surveying host and non-host trees within the interior of the quarantine area to determine whether any CLHB had survived the treatments. In addition to WSDA staff, which was given refresher certification training in tree climbing, two US Forest Service smokejumpers with Asian longhorned beetle experience conducted tree canopy surveys. Between October and December 2002, three thousand two hundred seventy nine (3,279) trees were surveyed.

## Results and Discussion

Thanks to the funding from the IPCC, the Washington State Department of Agriculture was able to administer the CLHB quarantine through holding 12 “chipper days” and 45 “mobile chips” and purchase a chipper. The ability to literally help residents comply with the quarantine – in addition to providing educational information during “chipper days” – was very important in gaining goodwill and understanding in the community in the face of having to remove trees from yards and similar areas – an activity that was not always well received. We are not aware of any quarantine violations and believe the quarantine has been very successful so far.

In addition, the funding from the IPCC helped WSDA to conduct Spring 2002 CLHB survey activities, which when combined with the more intensive survey activities in Autumn 2002, resulted in approximately 4000 surveyed trees. Through the survey, we have to date found no additional sign of CLHB in Washington, but intend to continue the survey for 5 years (per recommendations of the Science Advisory Panel) if federal funding is available. On the subject of federal funding, it should be mentioned that the funding from the IPCC served the additional purpose of being a partial match to the federal funding received for citrus longhorned beetle work – without it, the state would not have been able to provide any match in the cooperative agreement with USDA APHIS.

### Summary

The citrus longhorned beetle, though lesser known than the very closely related Asian longhorned beetle, posed, through the introduction at Tukwila Washington, a very serious threat to America's agriculture and environment and had to be confronted swiftly and effectively. The CLHB quarantine and the detection surveys for CLHB, especially following the eradication activities (tree removal and tree injection), were absolutely critical to what portends to be a successful prevention of establishment by yet another exotic invasive species. The use of IPCC funding to quickly launch survey and quarantine activities was instrumental in the state of Washington's success in keeping CLHB from spreading throughout the nation.

Submitted January 15, 2003

By Clinton L. Campbell, WSDA Pest Program Manager  
Olympia, WA