

The Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB), is federally designated as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. VELB is endemic to riparian areas throughout the Central Valley of California, where its larvae inhabit elderberry shrubs. Because of the severe reduction in the Central Valley's natural riparian vegetation over the last 150 years, the beetle's habitat has become scarce due to agricultural and urban development. VELB is in long-term decline due to human activities that have resulted in widespread alteration and fragmentation of habitats, and to a lesser extent, upland habitats, which support the beetle.

Some threats to survival of the beetle include:

- Loss and alteration of habitat by agricultural conversion.
- Levee construction, stream and river channelization, removal of riparian vegetation and rip-rapping of shoreline.
- Recreational, industrial, and urban development.

VELB remains federally threatened, but new efforts in mitigation measures and habitat restoration have shown promise in stabilizing populations. Nearly 100,000 elderberry shrubs have been planted in the California Central Valley over the last two decades in support of this species.



[https://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es\\_species/Accounts/Invertebrates/valley\\_elderberry\\_longhorn\\_beetle/](https://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es_species/Accounts/Invertebrates/valley_elderberry_longhorn_beetle/)