

**Finding of No Significant Impact for the Spotted Lanternfly Control Program in the
Mid-Atlantic Region – New Jersey**

**Environmental Assessment
July 2018**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) evaluating the impacts of a control program for the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) (*Lycorma delicatula*) in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. This included Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The EA is incorporated into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for New Jersey only, by reference and is available at the APHIS website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/> or from-

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The draft EA was prepared to evaluate the potential impacts to human health and the environment from the proposed control program for the SLF. The EA was made available to the public for a 30-day public comment period in local newspapers and on the APHIS web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/>. Notice of the availability of the EA was published in newspapers from each state at various times starting in late May. The notice of availability in New Jersey was published on May 29, 2018. APHIS received no comments on the EA. The analysis in the EA suggests that the proposed SLF Control Program will not have significant impacts to human health and the environment in New Jersey and the other States included in this EA. The comment period for some of the other states is currently in progress however due to a recent detection of SLF in New Jersey there is a need to begin eradication activities immediately to prevent further spread. This FONSI is being issued only for New Jersey and once the comment period ends for all of the States addressed in this EA, all public comments will be considered prior to any decision to issue a FONSI for the Mid-Atlantic region.

The SLF control program proposed several measures to address detections of SLF as they occur in any of the States in the future. Control efforts may include any or all of the following: surveys, egg mass scraping, sanitation, tree removal, and insecticide and herbicide applications.

- Survey/Egg mass scraping - Detection survey will use visual inspection, sweep netting, and tree banding to determine if SLF is present. Egg mass scraping consists of scraping egg masses from plants with a stiff plastic card into bags with an alcohol solution to cause mortality.
- Sanitation - Sanitation of all other green waste within a quarter-mile of SLF detections that may include chipping or grinding the debris, and disposal through incineration or burning.
- Tree removal -The invasive species, tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), will be removed or treated with herbicide up to a quarter-mile radius from infested trees. Stumps will be removed or treated with an herbicide to prevent sprouting.
- Tree banding - The program will place self-adhesive paper bands around *A. altissima* trees from SLF hatch in May to death of the adult population in November to capture SLF while they move up the trunk or congregate to feed and mate.
- Insecticide applications – Insecticide treatments for select tree of heaven trees will be made using ground equipment by certified applicators

APHIS consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the potential impacts of the SLF Control Program to federally listed species in New Jersey and other States included in this EA. APHIS received an email dated July 11, 2018 from the New Jersey U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services Field Office that the proposed program would not adversely affect the federally listed bog turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*), dwarf wedge mussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*), small-whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*), swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*) and Knieskern's beaked-rush (*Rhynchospora knieskernii*) which are known to occur in the currently proposed action area in New Jersey.

There are no disproportionate adverse effects to minorities, low-income populations, or children, in accordance with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations," and Executive Order 13045, "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks." Children are not likely to see or hear program activities as they occur. Based on the proposed action's pesticide application methods and storage precautions, it is extremely unlikely that children will be directly exposed to the pesticides. SLF control activities are not currently anticipated on historic properties or sites of tribal importance; however, if treatments become necessary, they will be coordinated with local managers of historic properties to ensure the program will have no impact to historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

I have determined that there would be no significant impact on the quality of the human environment from the implementation of the preferred alternative. APHIS' finding of no significant impact from the preferred alternative is based on the results of the analysis in the EA. Lastly, because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impact associated with the proposed program, I further find that no additional environmental documentation needs to be prepared and that the program may proceed.

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Animal and Plant Health Inspection
Service

July 24, 2018

Date