

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
for
Giant African Snail Cooperative Eradication
Program Environmental Assessment
of October 2011**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzed alternatives for eradicating the Giant African Snail *Lissachatina (Achatina) fulica* in Miami-Dade County, Florida. The EA, which analyzes the potential impacts of this program, is incorporated by reference in this document, and is available from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Emergency and Domestic Programs
4700 River Road, Unit 26
Riverdale, MD 20737

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/gas/index.shtml

The EA analyzed alternatives consisting of (1) no APHIS action other than to continue to prohibit the importation and interstate movement of *L. fulica*, and confiscate it where discovered, and (2) the preferred alternative, where APHIS would work cooperatively with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to eradicate this exotic snail from Miami-Dade County, Florida. The EA analyzed the impacts of the use of a molluscicide, iron phosphate, which in conjunction with physical removal is the most effective method of eradication for *L. fulica*.

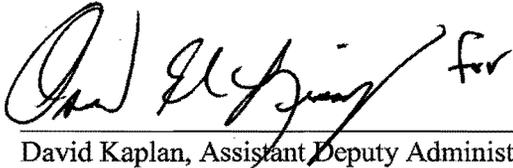
Based on the description and explanation in the environmental assessment of the seriously harmful and destructive consequences of the Giant African Snail, including a health threat to people, APHIS finds that the localized treatment control response to this serious pest infestation is urgent and that it is necessary to begin the treatment program operations immediately. The localized treatment area will consist of only the nine cores identified in Appendix B of the EA. APHIS will begin treatment in the localized area immediately and is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact for the EA before the comment period on the EA concludes. Nevertheless, all comments received on the EA will be evaluated and responded to after the comment period has ended. All comments received by November 11, 2011, will be carefully reviewed and considered by APHIS; if necessary, a supplement to the EA or an amended FONSI would be prepared and made public in the same manner as the notices of the availability of the environmental assessment. Significant impacts to human health or the environment are not anticipated based on an evaluation of available information regarding the proposed use of the molluscicide in this program.

APHIS, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, reviewed the treatment activities and localized program area described in Appendix B of the EA, and determined that program actions are not likely to adversely affect federally listed species and their designated critical habitat.

If the treatment area expands, or new species or critical habitats are listed, APHIS will reevaluate program activities and consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as necessary. A 10-foot application buffer will be applied to all water bodies to reduce exposure in aquatic habitats.

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." Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act there are no expected adverse impacts to cultural or historical properties.

I find that implementation of the proposed program will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. I have considered and based my finding of no significant impact on the analysis contained within the EA and my review of the program's operational characteristics. Lastly, because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impact associated with the proposed program, I find that no additional environmental documentation needs to be prepared and that the program may proceed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Kaplan" with a stylized flourish and the word "for" written to the right.

David Kaplan, Assistant Deputy Administrator
Emergency and Domestic Programs
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

A handwritten date in black ink, "October 7, 2011", written in a cursive style.

Date