

**Finding of No Significant Impact For  
Port of Tacoma *Cer­nuella virgata* (*C. virgata*)  
Eradication Program in Pierce County, Washington  
Environmental Assessment  
June 2008**

In June, 2008, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzed potential environmental consequences of eradicating the vineyard snail, *Cer­nuella virgata* from the Port of Tacoma in Pierce County, Washington. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/ea/downloads/tacoma\\_snails\\_ea6-30-98.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/downloads/tacoma_snails_ea6-30-98.pdf) or from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Emergency and Domestic Programs  
Emergency Management  
4700 River Road, Unit 134  
Riverdale, MD 20737–1236

The EA analyzed alternatives consisting of (1) no participation in an eradication treatment for vineyard snail and (2) cooperating with Washington State Department of Agriculture to eradicate the vineyard snail using outreach, debris disposal, vegetation removal and disposal, habitat alternation, and molluscicide over the course of a 5 year period (preferred alternative).

An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared if implementation of the proposed action may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. I have determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the preferred alternative and, therefore, no EIS needs to be conducted.

APHIS' finding of no significant impact for this action was based upon the expected limited environmental consequences, as analyzed in the EA. The EA evaluated the potential environmental effects of the various treatment options on human health and nontarget organisms, including the use of herbicide and molluscicide. The treatment area is an area of high traffic where minimal wildlife is present. However, the treatment area is surrounded by water; mitigations were imposed to prevent any treatments from entering the surrounding water environments. The program will use silt fences and/or textile fabrics around storm water drains and draining ditches to prevent molluscicide pellets from entering surrounding waters and use buffers when treating with liquid chemicals to ensure that these chemicals do not run off and enter the surrounding aquatic environment.

APHIS has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as required by the Endangered Species Act. FWS has concurred that the proposed eradication program is not likely to adversely affect the Puget Sound Chinook, Puget Sound Steelhead Trout, Bull Trout, or their critical habitat.

Lastly, because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impact associated with this program, I further find that an EIS does not need to be prepared and that this program may be implemented.



Barbara A. Chambers  
State Plant Health Director  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

August 7, 2008  
Date