

**Amended Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Port of Tacoma *Cernuella virgata* (*C. virgata*)
Eradication Program in Pierce County, Washington
Environmental Assessment
September 2013**

In May 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 or from:

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

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

The 2008 EA evaluated the potential environmental effects of the preferred alternative on human health and non-target organisms over a five year period. The results of the analysis were expressed in the original FONSI published in June 2008 which is available at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/downloads/vineyard_snail_fonsi.pdf. To date the eradication program has resulted in the prevention of the vineyard snail from moving outside the original action area, and the area of treatment within the Port of Tacoma that was discussed in the 2008 EA has been reduced due to successful implementation of the preferred alternative. APHIS is proposing to continue to implement the preferred alternative beyond the five year period proposed in the original EA to ensure successful eradication of the vineyard snail. APHIS' amended finding of no significant impact for this program was based upon the expected limited environmental consequences, as analyzed in the original EA which would be further limited in the future because the area of treatment has been reduced.

APHIS 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.

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.

Barbara Chambers

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State Plant Health Director

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency

Sept. 25, 2013

Date