

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
for
Giant African Snail Cooperative Eradication
Program Supplemental Environmental Assessment
March 2013**

In October 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the program to eradicate giant African snail (GAS), *Lissachatina (Achatina) fulica*, from Miami-Dade County in Florida. The EA analyzed alternatives consisting of (1) no APHIS action other than to continue to prohibit the importation and interstate movement of GAS, 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 described the effects of GAS on the environment and analyzed the impacts of the use of a molluscicide, iron phosphate, in conjunction with physical removal for eradication of GAS. APHIS issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) dated November 14, 2011, concluding that implementation of the program would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. In August 2012, APHIS prepared a supplemental EA that analyzed the addition of the molluscicide boric acid to the eradication program. APHIS issued a FONSI dated September 12, 2012, concluding that the addition of boric acid to the program would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. In February 2013, APHIS prepared another supplemental EA that analyzed the addition of a third molluscicide, metaldehyde, to the eradication program. APHIS has a need to add metaldehyde to the program to achieve higher GAS mortality, especially in areas where GAS occurs in high densities. Addition of metaldehyde to the eradication program provides a product for use in certain areas where greater efficacy is needed.

The supplemental EA, which analyzed the potential impacts of adding metaldehyde to the 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
Plant Health Programs – Pest Management
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737

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

The supplemental EA analyzed alternatives consisting of (1) no action by APHIS to add metaldehyde to the program, and (2) the preferred alternative, to add metaldehyde as a treatment to eradicate GAS from Miami-Dade County in Florida. A notice of the availability of the EA was published for a 30-day comment period in the Miami Herald on February 11, 2013. No comments were received on the EA.

I have decided to authorize the addition of metaldehyde to the GAS eradication program. The reasons for my decision are:

- Metaldehyde poses low risk to non-target organisms and humans based on the proposed use pattern, environmental fate, and toxicity.
- Impacts to air, soil, and water quality are not anticipated from metaldehyde because of its proposed use pattern, environmental fate, and additional program application restrictions.
- The action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Everglade snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*) and its critical habitat, Cable Sable seaside sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus mirabilis*) and its critical habitat, Florida grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*), Florida scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), Kirtland's warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*), Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), and the Stock Island tree snail (*Orthalicus reses*). APHIS consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and received a concurrence letter dated March 21, 2013. APHIS also determined that the addition of metaldehyde would have no effect on other federally listed species in Miami-Dade County.
- No significant cumulative impacts from the use of metaldehyde are anticipated for human health and the environment.
- The proposed addition of metaldehyde to the program will not have a negative impact to historic or cultural sites but will provide beneficial impacts due to the protection from damage and nuisance that can occur from GAS infestations.
- There are no disproportionate adverse effects to minorities, low-income populations, children, or Native American tribes in accordance with Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations," Executive Order 13045, "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks", and Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments."

I have determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the preferred alternative and, therefore, no Environmental Impact Statement needs to be prepared.


 Andrea Simao
 Plant Health Programs - Pest Management
 Plant Protection and Quarantine
 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

March 20, 2013
 Date