

Finding of No Significant Impact Gypsy Moth Cooperative Eradication Program in Anoka County, Minnesota

Environmental Assessment May 2015

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) evaluating the impacts of a treatment for gypsy moth in Anoka County, Minnesota. The EA is incorporated into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) 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 made available to the public for comment in March 2015, and was prepared to evaluate the potential impacts to human health and the environment from the proposed treatment of a 513 acre block in Anoka County, MN with the microbial insecticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk), for gypsy moth control. The use of Btk for eradication was previously evaluated in an Environmental Impact Statement as one of six alternatives for treating gypsy moth and found to be the most effective method for treating gypsy moth outbreaks similar to the one described in Anoka County, MN. The EA was prepared and made available to the public for a 30-day public comment period beginning on March 27, 2015, on the APHIS web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/>. Notice of the availability of the EA was published in the Anoka County Record. APHIS received no comments on the EA. The analysis in the EA suggests that the treatment of gypsy moth in a 513 acre block in Anoka County, Minnesota with Btk will not result in significant impacts to human health and the environment. Two applications of Btk will be applied with an interval of approximately five to 10 days between each application. These applications are estimated to occur sometime in mid-May 2015. The exact date of application will be timed so that the applications occur during the early larval stages when GM caterpillars hatch from their eggs and are most susceptible to treatments.

APHIS has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has determined that the preferred treatment alternative may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the threatened Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). In addition the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources determined that the proposed treatments will not impact state listed and threatened species.

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." The potential for impacts to historic properties, including sites of tribal importance were evaluated pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. A letter from the State Historic Preservation Office of the Minnesota Historical Society received on March 16, 2015 confirmed that no historic properties occur in the proposed treatment block.

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 this 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.



Donald Anderson
Acting State Plant Health Director - Minnesota
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

5/4/2015

Date