

**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-

USDA-APHIS-PPQ,  
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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.

