

Finding of No Significant Impact Asian Gypsy Moth Cooperative Eradication Program in Multnomah County, Oregon

Environmental Assessment April 2016

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 Multnomah County, Oregon. 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 prepared to evaluate the potential impacts to human health and the environment from the proposed treatment of an 8,674 acre block in Multnomah County, OR, 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 Multnomah County, OR. The EA was made available to the public for a 30-day public comment period beginning on February 12, 2016, on the APHIS web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/>, and on the ODA web site at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/IPPM/SuppressionEradication/Pages/SuppressionEradication.aspx>. Notice of the availability of the EA was published in the Oregonian from February 12-14, 2016. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) published announcements in the NW Examiner and St. Johns Review announcing public open house meetings that were held on February 17 and 20, 2016, at James John Elementary School to discuss the planned gypsy moth program and EA. Approximately twelve commenters submitted comments to APHIS and ODA in response to the EA. Some comments received during the public open house meetings were from the same individuals who submitted similar comments in response to the public comment period for the EA. APHIS provided a response to comments which is contained in appendix A of the final EA. The final EA also discusses additional outreach efforts conducted by ODA and APHIS and other updates that occurred during the 30-day public comment period.

The analysis in the EA suggests that the treatment of gypsy moth in an 8,674 acre block in Multnomah County, OR with Btk will not result in significant impacts to human health and the environment. Three applications of Btk will be applied with an interval of approximately seven to 14 days between each application. These applications are estimated to start sometime in mid to

late April 2016. The exact date of application will be timed so that the applications occur during the early larval stages when they are most susceptible to treatments. ODA will send out a mailer prior to treatment to all households in the treatment area with information about the gypsy moth eradication applications. There will also be notifications about the applications published in the St. Johns Review. ODA will also use robo-calls, text messaging, and email notifications for those residents and business owners who sign up to receive automated notices. ODA will post notifications about the treatment on their website and Twitter and Facebook accounts. There will also be physical postings using highway and street signs to notify residents and business owners in and around the proposed treatment area.

APHIS consulted with the National Marine Fisheries Service and determined that the preferred treatment alternative may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect various salmonid species, the Pacific eulachon distinct population segment (DPS), and North American green sturgeon DPS. APHIS met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and determined that there would be no effect to listed species under FWS jurisdiction in the program area.

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. No historic properties were identified within the proposed treatment area.

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.



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4 APR. 2016
Date