FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
THE COUNTIES OF MONTANA COVERED BY THE
2016 APHIS RANGELAND GRASSHOPPER/
MORMON CRICKET SUPPRESSION PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NUMBER: MT-15-03

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has analyzed a range of alternatives for grasshopper control in the counties of Montana covered by Environmental Assessment (EA) MT-16-03 dated 1 April, 2016. This EA is supported by and tiered to the Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program Final EIS (APHIS EIS 2002). The analysis is also supported by a Biological Assessment for endangered species prepared by APHIS and a Letter of Concurrence from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). APHIS conducted Section 7 consultation with the FWS, Montana State Office and developed mitigation protection measures for use of malathion, carbaryl, carbaryl bait, and diflubenzuron. These documents are available for review at USDA APHIS PPQ, 1220 Cole Ave., Helena MT 59601 and USDA APHIS PPQ, 1629 Ave. D, Suite A-5, Billings, MT 59102.

The alternative methods analyzed included chemical control by malathion, carbaryl and diflubenzuron sprays, carbaryl bait, and no action. The environmental impacts of each method and potential mitigation measures are described in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) No: MT-16-03. The operational procedures and mitigation measures identified in the attached EA would ensure that no significant adverse environmental impacts other than those identified in APHIS EIS 2002 would occur to the human environment. The alternative selected is a combination of no-treatment, treatments with carbaryl, carbaryl bait, or diflubenzuron, utilizing the Reduced Agent Area Treatments (RAATS) technology where practical.

Reasons for the finding of no significant impact include:

- Listed species, critical habitat, and proposed critical habitat would not be affected, or would not likely be adversely affected under any alternative.

- No unstable or limited range wildlife population would be adversely affected.

- Environmental Assessment (EA) Number: MT-16-03 has disclosed the following species of concern may be in the vicinity of the treatment areas: Grizzly Bear, Canada Lynx, Whooping Crane, Bald Eagle, White Sturgeon, Bull Trout, Ute Ladies'-tresses, Pallid Sturgeon, Least Tern, Piping Plover, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Red Knot, Black Footed Ferret, and the Greater Sage-Grouse. The location of these species or their habitat, protection and mitigation measures, rate of application, and materials to be used, specified in the EA will result in no adverse effects to these species or their habitat from the treatment project.

DETERMINATION

On the basis of the information contained and referenced in the EA and the 2002 EIS, it is my determination that conventional or RAATS application of malathion, carbaryl, carbaryl bait, or diflubenzuron does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

I find that the mitigation measures for conventional or RAATs treatments, specified in the EA and the 2002 EIS, will result in a “not affect” or “not likely to adversely affect” determination to threatened, endangered or proposed species, critical habitat, and/or proposed critical habitat and is consistent with Executive order 13186, “ Migratory bird Act” and the “Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA).

I find that the environmental process undertaken for this program is entirely consistent with Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations” and Executive Order No. 13045, “Protection of Children From Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks.”

GARY ADAMS

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Gary D. Adams,
State Plant Health Director, MT