

Finding of No Significant Impact for the Spotted Lanternfly Eradication Program in Frederick County, Virginia

Environmental Assessment April 2018

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) evaluating the impacts of an eradication program for the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) (*Lycorma delicatula*) in Frederick County, Virginia. 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 eradication program for the SLF. The EA was made available to the public for a 30-day public comment period beginning on March 26, 2018 on the APHIS web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/>. Notice of the availability of the EA was published in the Winchester Star on March 26, 2018. APHIS received no comments on the EA. The analysis in the EA suggests that the proposed SLF Eradication Program will not have significant impacts to human health and the environment.

The SLF eradication program proposed several measures to address detections of SLF as they occur in any of the counties in the future. Eradication efforts may include any or all of the following: regulatory control, surveys, egg mass scraping, sanitation, tree removal, and insecticide and herbicide applications.

- Regulatory control - consists of a quarantine established to eliminate intrastate and interstate movement and reduce human-assisted spread of SLF. High-risk host material from within the quarantine area would be prohibited from moving outside the area, except under a permit issued by APHIS.
- Survey/Egg mass scraping - Detection survey will use visual inspection and sweep netting to determine if SLF is present. Egg mass scraping consists of scraping egg masses from plants with a stiff plastic card into bags with an alcohol solution to cause mortality.
- Sanitation - Sanitation of all other green waste within a quarter-mile of SLF detections that may include chipping or grinding the debris, and disposal through incineration or burning.
- Tree removal -The invasive species, tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), will be

removed up to a quarter-mile radius from infested trees. Stumps will be removed or treated with an herbicide to prevent sprouting.

- Insecticide applications – Insecticide treatments using imidacloprid or dinotefuran for select tree of heaven trees will be made using ground equipment by certified applicators

APHIS consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the potential impacts of the SLF Eradication Program to federally listed species. APHIS received a letter dated February 28, 2018 that the proposed program would not adversely affect the federally listed northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) which is known to occur in the proposed action 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." Children are not likely to see or hear program activities as they occur. Based on the proposed action's pesticide application methods and storage precautions, it is extremely unlikely that children will be directly exposed to the pesticides. No pesticide applications will occur without landowner consent. SLF eradication activities are not currently anticipated on historic properties or sites of tribal importance; however, if treatments become necessary, they will be coordinated with local managers of historic properties to ensure the program will have no impact to historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

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 the 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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Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection
Service

__April 26, 2018__
Date