

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

Environmental Assessment April 2019

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) evaluating the impacts of a treatment for gypsy moth in Benton County, Oregon. The EA is incorporated into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by reference and is available at the APHIS website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/> or from-

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The draft EA evaluated the potential impacts to human health and the environment from a proposed treatment using the microbial insecticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) to a 45-acre treatment area located in the western portion of Corvallis, OR in Benton County. The use of Btk for gypsy moth eradication was previously evaluated in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as one of six alternatives for treating gypsy moth and found to be the preferred alternative for the proposed treatment. The draft EA was made available to the public for a 30-day comment period beginning on March 3, 2019 at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/>. The notice of availability was published in newspapers in Corvallis and Albany, OR on March 3 and 4, 2019, respectively. APHIS and the ODA received no comments on the EA.

The analysis in the EA suggests that the treatment of gypsy moth at the 45 acre site located in Benton County, OR with Btk will not result in significant impacts to human health and the environment. Btk (Foray[®] XG) will be applied by ground equipment over the proposed treatment area. The proposed formulation is certified for organic production. Two applications of Btk will be applied with an interval of approximately five to 14 days between each application. These applications are estimated to begin sometime in late April 2019. 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. Pheromone-baited GM traps will be used to monitor success of the treatments. Traps are baited with disparlure, a synthetically produced sex pheromone that mimics the natural pheromone that female GM use to attract the male GM.

APHIS has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and determined that the proposed treatments will have no effect on the marbled murrelet, *Brachyramphus marmoratus* and its critical habitat; northern spotted owl, *Strix occidentalis caurina* and its critical habitat;

streaked horned lark, *Eremophila alpestris strigata* and its critical habitat; yellow-billed cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus* and its proposed critical habitat; water howellia, *Howellia aquatilis*, Bradshaw's desert-parsley, *Lomatium bradshawii*; Kincaid's lupine, *Lupinus sulphureus* ssp. *kincaidii* and its critical habitat; Nelson's checkermallow, *Sidalcea nelsoniana*; and Willamette daisy, *Erigeron decumbens*. No critical habitat for these species occurs in the proposed treatment area.

APHIS has determined that the proposed program may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Fender's blue butterfly, *Icaricia icariodes fenderi* and Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, *Euphydryas editha taylori*. No critical habitat for these species occurs in the proposed treatment area. APHIS received concurrence from the FWS in an email on April 15, 2019.

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." Available risk assessment and toxicity data that is summarized in this EA show low risk to the human population, including children, from the proposed use of Btk. 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 are within the proposed treatment area. Ceded tribal lands within the proposed treatment area were identified and a request for consultation was submitted to the affected tribes on February 27, 2019.

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.

Clinton Burfitt
State Plant Health Director - Oregon
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Date