

Finding of No Significant Impact for the Asian Giant Hornet Control Program in Washington State

Environmental Assessment July 2020

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) evaluating the impacts of funding activities to detect and eradicate the Asian giant hornet (AGH) throughout Washington State wherever it is detected. The final 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 at:

USDA-APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine
Emergency and Domestic Programs
4700 River Road, Unit 134
Riverdale, MD 20737-1229

The draft EA evaluated two alternatives: (1) no action, and (2) detection, and chemical treatment and removal of AGH nests, the preferred alternative. The draft EA evaluated the potential impacts to human health and the environment from the no action alternative and the preferred alternative where USDA-APHIS provides funding to the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to detect and eradicate the AGH in Washington State. Detection uses trapping methods with lures to detect queen and worker AGHs. Once an AGH nest is identified the interior of the nest is treated with the pyrethroid insecticide, cyfluthrin. The nest is then removed and additional trapping occurs to ensure removal of all AGHs in the area. USDA-APHIS prepared a draft EA that was published on June 10, 2020 to begin a 30-day public comment period. Notifications regarding availability of the draft EA were published in the Bellingham Herald and Skagit-Valley Herald, and were posted to the WSDA website, AGH Facebook group and AGH stakeholder list. USDA-APHIS and WSDA received no comments during the public comment period.

USDA-APHIS has determined that the proposed program for AGH will not have adverse impacts to human health. The use of trapping and insecticide treatments for AGH will not result in significant impacts to human health based on available data and the proposed methods of treatment described in the final EA. The preferred alternative will have negligible impacts to the environment including soil, water and air quality, as well as non-target fish and wildlife. AGH detection and eradication will benefit some non-target species, such as honey bees and other pollinators.

APHIS prepared two biological assessments, and requested concurrence with these determinations for the appropriate species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). USDA-APHIS submitted biological assessments to the FWS and NMFS on May 19, 2020. USDA-APHIS received concurrence on the NMFS biological assessment on June 3, 2020. USDA-APHIS received concurrence on the FWS biological assessment on July 29, 2020.

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.”

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.

Anne LeBrun
Asian Giant Hornet National Policy Manager
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

7/29/20

Date