

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon cricket Suppression Program Environmental Assessment for Missouri Slope Assessment Area in North Dakota EA Number ND-20-01

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes alternatives for suppressing grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks on rangeland in the Missouri Slope Assessment Area of North Dakota. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from 3509 Miriam Ave. Suite A, Bismarck, ND 58501 and online at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health/grasshopper>

The EA includes an analysis of the potential impacts of three alternatives. They included (1) No Action, (2) Insecticide Applications at Conventional Rates and Complete Area Coverage, or (3) Reduced Agent Area Treatments (RAATs). All of these alternatives are available as components of integrated pest management. The operational procedures and mitigation measures identified in the EA would ensure that there are no significant adverse environmental impacts other than those identified in the EIS.

While APHIS presently has no proposed suppression program planned for the assessment area, APHIS has determined that any suppression program, conducted in accordance with the Guidelines for Treatment of Rangeland Grasshoppers and Mormon Crickets (treatment guidelines), which contains the operational procedures, will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

The finding of no significant impacts was determined on the following:

1. Human Health: APHIS adheres to the specific requirements of the pesticide label and the 2020 Operational Guidelines and Operational Procedures. By following the requirements outlined in these documents both the general public and workers will be protected from any adverse effects to human health. Cholinesterase testing will be part of the monitoring program in the event Carbaryl is used. No human health effects are likely.
2. Non-targets: Chemical label instructions and APHIS Treatment Guidelines and Operational Procedures will be strictly followed. This will mitigate any adverse effects on non-targets. Identifiable beekeepers will be given notice of any potential treatment in areas that contain colonies of domestic bees. Beekeepers will be instructed to move bees at least two miles outside of potential treatment areas. APHIS will conduct environmental monitoring in areas where buffers are implemented. No adverse effects are likely for non-targets.
3. Endangered and threatened species: The protection measures that resulted from the Section 7 consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Services will be implemented and strictly followed. Additional consultations on the Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*) may occur before any suppression program begins. Therefore, the proposed suppression program is not likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

4. Socioeconomic issues: The potential suppression efforts would likely have beneficial economic impacts to local landowners and lessees. The forage not utilized by grasshoppers will allow for greater livestock grazing, decreased needs for supplemental feed and increased monetary returns.
5. Cultural resources and events: APHIS does not anticipate any impact on cultural resources or events. APHIS will consult with Tribal and Bureau of Indian Affairs as well as the state Historical Society for possible cultural impacts of proposed suppression efforts.
6. Executive Orders 12898 (low income and minorities), 13045 (children) and 13186 (migratory birds): No adverse effects are anticipated on low income or minority populations or children because possible suppression treatments will be conducted primarily on open rangeland where human activity is unlikely. APHIS routinely conducts programs in a manner that minimizes the impact on the environment, including any impact on migratory birds.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA, the implementation of the treatment guidelines (containing the operational procedures) and the protection measures for endangered and threatened species, I have determined that the proposed suppression program will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

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Date