

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program
Environmental Assessment in South Dakota.
SD-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 South Dakota. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from USDA, APHIS, PPQ, 314 South Henry, Suite 200, Pierre, SD 57501 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 Reduced Agent Area Treatments (RAATs) and (3) Research Treatment Alternatives. All of these alternatives are available as components of integrated pest management.

The operational procedures and mitigation measures identified in the EA will ensure that there are no significant adverse environmental impacts. This was determined based 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. 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.
3. Endangered and threatened species: The protection measures that resulted from the Section 7 consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Services will be implemented and strictly followed. Therefore, the proposed suppression program is not likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species and any designated critical habitat.
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 impacts 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.

Amy Mesman
State Plant Health Director

Date