

**Finding of No Significant Impact for the Spotted Lanternfly Control Program in the Mid-Atlantic Region, North Carolina, Ohio, and Kentucky**

**Environmental Assessment  
June 2020**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) evaluating the impacts of a control program for the spotted lanternfly (SLF) (*Lycorma delicatula*) in the Mid-Atlantic States (includes Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia) as well as North Carolina, Ohio, and Kentucky. The EA is incorporated into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by reference and is available at the USDA-APHIS website at

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/sa\\_environmental\\_assessments/ct\\_slf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/sa_environmental_assessments/ct_slf) or from-

USDA-APHIS

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The draft EA was prepared to evaluate the potential impacts to human health and the environment from the proposed SLF Control Program. Notice of the availability of the EA was published in newspapers within each state and the EA was made available in the Federal Register on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, for a 30-day public comment period. The EA analysis suggests that the proposed SLF Control Program will not have significant impacts to human health and the environment. USDA-APHIS received 1 comment regarding the control measures outlined in the EA; the comment is addressed in appendix 1 of the EA.

The SLF Control Program proposed several measures to address detections of SLF as they occur in any of the states. Control efforts may include any or all of the following: herbicide applications, tree bands and traps, insecticide applications, detection and visual reconnaissance surveys, and egg mass scraping.

- Herbicide applications- the herbicides triclopyr, imazapyr, and/or metsulfuron-methyl could be used on tree wounds or small tree trunks, and/or foliar applications of aminopyralid and glyphosate to treat sprouting Tree-of-Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*. All applications will be made either by hand painting undiluted material on the trunk of the *A. altissima* seedling or sapling or directly spraying sprouting foliage using a backpack sprayer.
- Tree bands and circle traps - The program will place self-adhesive paper bands around *A. altissima* trees from May to November to capture SLF while they move up the trunk or congregate to feed and mate. Additionally, circle traps, a circle of mesh wrapped around *A. altissima* tree trunks that trap SLF, funneling them into an enclosed container containing dichlorvos, may be used.
- Insecticide applications- Insecticide treatments including dinotefuran, imidacloprid, bifenthrin, beta-cyfluthrin, *Beauveria bassiana*, and/or soybean oil for select *A. altissima* trees will be made using ground equipment by certified applicators
- Detection and visual reconnaissance surveys, and egg mass scraping. Detection survey will use visual inspection, sweep netting, and tree banding and circle traps 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.

USDA-APHIS has begun consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the potential impacts of the SLF Control Program to Federally-listed species in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia. To date, USDA-APHIS has received concurrence from USFWS for the proposed SLF Control Program in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. USDA-APHIS will not implement the proposed SLF Control Program in any state where USFWS has not issued a concurrence letter.

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." Federally-recognized Tribes were notified of the proposed SLF Control Program. While USDA-APHIS believes the proposed

SLF Program is unlikely to affect Native American sites and artifacts, they agency requested Tribes make contact should they have overlooked or failed to anticipate any ways their Tribe may be affected by the SLF Program. Lastly, SLF control activities are not currently anticipated on historic properties; 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. USDA-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 impacts 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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