

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
CARBON, EMERY, GRAND AND SAN JUAN COUNTIES
2020 APHIS RANGELAND GRASSHOPPER
MORMON CRICKET SUPPRESSION PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO: UT-20-1

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 Carbon, Emery, Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available for review at USDA, APHIS, PPQ, 1860w. Alexander St., #B West Valley, UT 84119 and APHIS, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737-1228.

The EA includes an analysis of the potential impacts of three alternatives: (1) No Action, (2) Insecticide Applications at Conventional Rates and Complete Area Coverage, and (3) Reduced Agent Area Treatments (RAATs). The chemical control methods analyzed included chemical control by malathion and diflubenzuron sprays and carbaryl ground bait. The environmental impacts of each method and potential mitigation measures are described in the final EA. The operational procedures and mitigation measures identified in the EA would ensure that no significant adverse environmental impacts other than those identified in the APHIS EIS 2002 and 2019 would occur to the human environment. The alternative selected is the Reduced Agent Area Treatments (RAATs).

Reasons for the finding of no significant impact include:

1. Human Health: Potential exposures to the general public from RAAT's application rates are infrequent and of low magnitude. These low exposures to the public pose no risk of direct toxicity, carcinogenicity, neurotoxicity, genotoxicity, reproductive toxicity, or developmental toxicity. APHIS will offer the opportunity for hypersensitive individuals to register a request that treatments not occur near their property. APHIS also implements other required operational procedures that will reduce the risks to the public. This includes the use of no-treatment buffers near homes and schools, as well as other measures that will reduce exposure to the public. The potential for adverse effects to workers is negligible if proper safety procedures are followed, including wearing the required protective clothing. Therefore, routing safety precautions are expected to provide adequate worker health protection.

2. Non-targets: The use of RAAT's in the proposed program will reduce the risk to non-target fish and wildlife. APHIS summarized the potential for impacts from pesticide treatments in the final EA which relied on information from risk assessments that were prepared to support the 2019 EIS. APHIS Directive 5640.1 commits the agency to a policy of monitoring the effects of Federal programs on the environment. Environmental monitoring includes such activities as checking to make sure the insecticides are applied in accordance with the labels, and that sensitive sites and organisms are protected. The environmental monitoring recommended for grasshopper suppression programs involves monitoring sensitive sites such as bodies of water used for human consumption or recreation or which have wildlife value, habitats of endangered and threatened species, habitats of other sensitive wildlife species, edible crops and any sites for which the public has expressed concern or where humans might congregate (e.g., schools, parks, hospitals).

3. Threatened, endangered or proposed species would not be adversely affected under any alternative. APHIS submitted a biological assessment to the FWS on April 29, 2020 and

received concurrence on June 10, 2020. No unstable or limited range wildlife population would be adversely affected.

4. Socioeconomic issues have been considered and are addressed in the EA. It is determined that grasshopper treatment would not adversely affect socioeconomic issues.

5. Cultural resources and events have been considered and are addressed in the EA. It is determined that grasshopper treatment would not adversely affect cultural resources and events.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA, the 2002 and 2019 EIS, and 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. I find that the mitigation measures for conventional or RAAT's treatments, specified in the EA and the 2002 and 2019 EIS, will result in a "not likely to adversely affect" determination to threatened, endangered or proposed species, critical habitat and/or proposed critical habitat and is consistent with Executive Order 13186, "Migratory Bird Act" and the "Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act," (BGEPA). I find that the environmental process undertaken for this program is entirely consistent with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" and Executive Order No. 13045, "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks."

06/29/2020

Date

Alana Wild

State Plant Health Director NV/UT