

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

**Supplemental Final Environmental Assessment
October 2021**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepared a supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) evaluating the impacts of the control program for spotted lanternfly (SLF) (*Lycorma delicatula*) in Pennsylvania and select counties in Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia. The SEA is incorporated into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by reference and is available at the USDA-APHIS website at [USDA APHIS | Spotted Lanternfly](#) or from-

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The draft SEA was prepared to evaluate the potential impacts to human health and the environment from the proposed SLF Program. Notice of the availability of the draft SEA was published in newspapers within each state and the EA was made available on Regulations.gov (APHIS-2020-0042-0003) on August 19, 2021, for a 35-day public comment period. The draft SEA analysis indicates that the proposed SLF Program will not have significant impacts to human health and the environment. USDA-APHIS received 1 comment regarding the control measures outlined in the draft SEA; the comment is addressed in appendix B of the final SEA.

USDA-APHIS will continue to use a combination of measures in an integrated manner on an as-needed basis when there are SLF detections, as outlined in the June 2020 EA. Control efforts will continue to include any or all of the following: herbicide applications, tree bands and traps (including circle traps), insecticide applications, detection and visual reconnaissance surveys, and egg mass scraping. The SEA analyzed the proposed changes to the SLF Program, which includes the application of bifenthrin and beta-cyfluthrin with ground-based mist blowers on

trees and vegetation along railways, in train yards, and around intermodal facilities in Pennsylvania and parts of Maryland, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia.

USDA-APHIS has begun consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the potential impacts of the SLF Program to Federally-listed species. To date, USDA-APHIS has received concurrence from USFWS for the proposed SLF Program in Maryland, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. USDA-APHIS has also begun consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). USDA-APHIS will implement protection measures for Federally-listed species and critical habitat in each state and select counties prior to the initiation of Program activities. No program activities will occur in a state until consultation has been completed with the USFWS and NMFS.

With USDA-APHIS' oversight and guidance, State and local agencies will reach out to all landowners and residents adjacent to areas sprayed with mist blowers. Every property owner and resident, regardless of whether they have been identified as being part of an underserved population, will be notified via phone, text, email, doorhanger, in person communication, or some combination of these methods. With the assistance of local authorities, special consideration will be given by the SLF Program to any underserved populations in the treatment areas to ensure meaningful engagement about the treatments has occurred. Protective measures on labels are meant to safeguard not only the applicator, but the public as well, including children. All labels will be followed. 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", no disproportionate adverse effects to minorities, low-income populations, or children are expected.

USDA-APHIS sent notification of the proposed action changes to Federally-recognized Tribes within or around the treatment areas. While USDA-APHIS believes the proposed SLF Program is unlikely to affect Native American sites and artifacts, Tribes should contact the agency if USDA-APHIS overlooked or failed to anticipate 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 SEA. 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.

/s/ Erin Otto 10/26/2021

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