

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program Environmental Assessment in Carbon, Emery, Grand & San Juan Counties, Utah UT-21-1

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 & San Juan Counties, Utah. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from 1860 West Alexander St., West Valley City, UT 84119 and online at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/ea/grasshopper-cricket-ea/grasshopper-cricket-by-state>.

The EA includes an analysis of the potential impacts of two alternatives. They included (1) No Action, (2) Insecticide Applications at Conventional Rates and Complete Area Coverage, or Reduced Agent Area Treatments (RAATs). The preferred alternative is Insecticide Applications at reduced rates - Reduced Agent Area Treatments (RAATs).

APHIS participation in this suppression program is based on potential damage such as wildlife and livestock forage destruction and benefits of treatments including crop protection or protection of sensitive species from grasshopper depredation. The goal of the proposed suppression program analyzed in this EA is to reduce grasshopper populations below economical infestation levels in order to protect rangeland ecosystems or cropland adjacent to rangeland.

APHIS has determined that the proposed suppression program, conducted in accordance with the APHIS Rangeland Grasshopper/Mormon cricket Suppression Program Aerial Application Statement of Work (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: 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. Nontargets: 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. Endangered and threatened species: Protection measures that resulted from the consultation process will be implemented and therefore, the proposed suppression program is not likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

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.

6. Executive Orders 12898 (low income and minorities), 13045 (children), and 13186 (migratory birds) have been considered and addressed in the EA's, and it is determined that the proposed suppression program is not likely to adversely affect persons with low incomes, minorities, children or 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.

June 3, 2021

Name
State Plant Health Director

Date