Finding of No Significant Impact Asian Gypsy Moth Cooperative Response Program in Stevens and Ferry Counties, Washington

Final Environmental Assessment April 2022

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) evaluating the impacts of a response program for Asian gypsy moth (AGM) in Stevens and Ferry Counties, Washington. The EA is incorporated into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by reference and is available at the APHIS website at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/, at regulations.gov, or from:

USDA-APHIS-PPQ 835 South 192nd Street, Bldg D, Ste. 1600 SeaTac, WA 98148

The draft EA evaluated the potential impacts to human health and the environment from the use of mass trapping and surveys to determine the extent of AGM populations. Mass trapping with delimitation and general survey will allow USDA-APHIS and WSDA to determine the extent of the AGM population in Stevens and Ferry Counties, WA while reducing AGM numbers, and determine whether there is a need for a future program to eradicate the AGM population. The draft EA for the proposed AGM response program was made available to the public for a 30-day comment period beginning on March 2, 2022 at www.regulations.gov (Docket ID: APHIS-2021-0017). WSDA also posted the draft EA for public comment on their site with contact information to submit comments. A notice of availability was also published in the Statesman Examiner newspaper in Stevens County, WA on March 2, 2022. USDA-APHIS and the WSDA received no public comments on the draft EA.

The analysis in the EA suggests that the use of mass trapping with delimitation trapping and general survey will not result in significant impacts to human health and the environment. Traps are baited with disparlure, a synthetically produced sex pheromone that mimics the natural pheromone that female AGM use to attract male AGM. Human health risks are expected to be minimal from using pheromone-baited traps in this program based on disparlure's long-term safety and the fact that it would be unlikely that humans would be exposed to the pheromone in the traps. The potential for exposure is greatest to workers who handle the concentrated product; however, following label requirements will minimize exposure and no adverse effects are anticipated. Most disparlure use will be in forested areas except for some general survey work where low-density trapping will be used in high-risk areas such as rail lines, off-loading facilities, business districts, and recreation areas. Trapping will only be done on private lands with landowner consent.

Available data shows that disparlure is considered practically nontoxic to fish, birds, and mammals. Pheromone traps do catch small numbers of nontarget organisms that accidently fly or crawl into the traps. However, because the pheromone in the trap is specific to AGM, nontarget insects will not be attracted to traps in significant numbers. The number of nontarget organisms affected will be very low and the pheromone will have minimal impacts to the environment. The traps used to trap and monitor AGM pose minimal risk to most non-target terrestrial and aquatic organisms due to limited exposure and low toxicity.

Federally listed species under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service jurisdiction in Stevens and Ferry Counties in Washington include Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*), and whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*). Critical habitat for the bull trout also occurs within the program area. Federally listed species under National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries jurisdiction include the Upper Columbia River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Upper Columbia River spring-run chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*). No critical habitat for these species occurs in the program area.

Trapping will have no effect on any federally listed species, species proposed for listing, or critical habitat in the program area. The traps would not be attractive to listed species nor would they expose listed species to insecticides because none are used in the traps. Non-target insects are not attracted to the gypsy moth-specific pheromone, and the pheromone is not toxic to animals or plants. Traps are placed in locations that are accessible by pre-existing roads; thus, trampling of plants or habitat is not expected.

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." Available risk assessment and toxicity data that is summarized in this EA show low risk to the human population, including children, from the proposed use of disparlure. Children are not expected to be adversely affected disproportionately more than adults from the proposed program actions. Pheromone traps used for mass trapping and delimitation are placed in areas typically out of the reach of children. No schools are located within the mass trapping, delimitation, and general survey areas. There is a school district in Kettle Falls, WA; however, the school is located outside of the boundary where general survey traps will be placed and is not considered a high-risk area for AGM. Children that may climb to areas where traps are located are at low risk from disparlure exposure. Disparlure has low toxicity to human health and any exposure would occur only by taking the traps apart and touching the wick that contains the pheromone.

The potential for impacts to historic properties, including sites of tribal importance were evaluated pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. There are two historic properties near the delimitation survey boundary for AGM. St. Paul's Mission and

Columbia River Bridge are on the southern boundary of the general survey boundary. These two structures and their surrounding areas will not be adversely impacted by any of the trapping and survey activities described in the final EA.

USDA-APHIS has determined that the proposed area for trapping contains ceded lands from the Methow, Okanagan, and Colville Tribes, with lands that are currently part of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. USDA-APHIS sent a letter on February 9, 2022 about the proposed AGM response program to the following tribal nations: Kalispel Tribe of Indians; Spokane Tribe of Indians; and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. USDA-APHIS and WSDA will address any Tribal questions or concerns about the proposed AGM response program.

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 this EA. Lastly, because I have not found evidence of significant environmental impact associated with the proposed program, I further find that no additional environmental documentation needs to be prepared and that the program may proceed.

/s/

April 5, 2022

Timothy St. Germain State Plant Health Director - Washington Plant Protection and Quarantine Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Date