

**Finding of No Significant Impact for the Horntail Snail Cooperative Eradication Program  
in Broward, Collier, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties, Florida**

**Final Environmental Assessment  
February 2022**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) evaluating the impacts of the cooperative eradication program for the horntail snail, *Macrochlamys indica* Benson (Ariophantidae), in Broward, Collier, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties, Florida. The Program is a cooperative effort between the APHIS and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The final EA is incorporated into this Finding of No Significant Impact by reference and is available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (APHIS-2021-0083-0001), the APHIS website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/> or from:

USDA-APHIS  
Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)  
8100 NW 15<sup>th</sup> Place  
Gainesville, FL 32606

The draft EA was prepared to evaluate the potential impacts to human health and the environment from the proposed horntail snail cooperative eradication program. The EA was made available on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (APHIS-2021-0083-0001) on December 27, 2021 for a 30-day public comment period. APHIS published the notice of the availability of the draft EA in local newspapers in Florida, its social media accounts, the PPQ Stakeholder Registry, and on its website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/ea/>. The draft EA evaluated the impacts to human health and the environment under a no action alternative and a preferred alternative which is the eradication of the horntail snail. The eradication program has three parts: survey for snails, hand-remove snails, and applications of the molluscicide, metaldehyde, to certain use sites. The draft EA analysis indicates that the proposed eradication program will not have significant impacts to human health and the environment. APHIS received no public comments on the draft EA.

APHIS consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the potential impacts of eradication to federally listed species. APHIS determined that the proposed action may affect but

is not likely to adversely affect the Everglade snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*) and its critical habitat, Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), Cape Sable seaside sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus mirabilis*) and its critical habitat, Florida grasshopper sparrow (*A. savannarum floridanus*), Stock Island tree snail (*Orthalicus reses*), and Florida scrub jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*). APHIS received concurrence from USFWS on April 27, 2021 and will use the agreed upon protection measures for federally listed species and critical habitat in the Program area.

The Program tells property owners at least 24 hours in advance where treatments could occur. Protective measures on pesticide labels safeguard not only the applicator, but the public as well, including children. The Program follows all pesticide label instructions and requirements. The Program does not expect disproportionate adverse effects to minorities, low-income populations, or children according to the Executive Orders (EO) 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations”, EO 13985, “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government”, and EO 13045, “Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks”.

Two Tribes are in south Florida; however, no horntail snail detections have occurred on, or next to, Tribal property. If the snail spreads into or near Tribal property, APHIS will contact the Tribes to discuss the Program. If the Program discovers any archaeological Tribal resources, it will tell the appropriate individuals.

APHIS considered potential program impacts under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Program will not affect sites, structures, or objects listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The use of metaldehyde on historic properties may temporarily alter public access to meet the 12-hour reentry period.

I have determined that there would be no significant impact on the quality of the human environment from the preferred alternative (eradication program). 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 is needed and that the program may proceed.

/s/

Kai Caraher  
National Policy Manager  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service