

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program Environmental Assessment in Wyoming EA Number WY-22-01

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes alternatives for suppressing grasshopper and Mormon cricket, hereafter referred to as grasshoppers, outbreaks on rangeland in Wyoming. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from USDA APHIS PPQ, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 208, Cheyenne, WY 82009 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 3 alternatives. They include (1) No Suppression Program, (2) Insecticide Applications at Conventional Rates or Reduced Agent and Area Treatments (RAATs) with Adaptive Management Strategy, and (3) Research methods. The preferred method will be Reduced Agent and Area Treatments. APHIS participation in this suppression program may be necessary to reduce grasshopper populations in order to preserve rangeland forage levels used for grazing, protect adjacent cropland from being infested with damaging grasshopper species, and to protect range conditions for long term range management. The goal of these suppression treatments is not to eradicate grasshopper species, but to mitigate outbreak populations back to normal levels without causing any significant adverse effects to human health or the environment.

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 and 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: The 2019 EIS contains detailed hazard, exposure, and risk analyses for the chemicals available to APHIS. Impacts to workers and the general public were analyzed for all possible routes of exposure (dermal, oral, inhalation) under a range of conditions designed to overestimate risk. No treatment will occur over congested areas, recreational areas, or schools and if appropriate, a buffer zone will be enacted and enforced. No treatment will occur directly over water bodies. Furthermore, the following water buffers will also be adhered to: 500 foot buffer for aerial liquid insecticides; 200 foot buffer with aerial bait; and a 50 foot buffer for all ground applications. No impact to groundwater is anticipated. Workers will utilize necessary safety protection measures to mitigate the risk of exposure. All APHIS treatments will strictly adhere to label requirements and further protection measures as outlined in the Treatment Guidelines and Operational Procedures. No human health effects are likely.
2. Non-targets: Chemical label instructions and APHIS Treatment Guidelines and Operational Procedures will be strictly followed. This will mitigate any adverse effects on non-targets. Bee keepers will be given notice of any potential treatments in areas that contain domestic or

leaf cutter bees. In all cases when using malathion or carbaryl a two mile buffer for domestic bees and a four mile buffer for leaf cutter bees will be enforced either by the movement of bees or with buffer zones. APHIS will conduct environmental monitoring in areas where buffers are implemented.

3. Endangered and threatened species: Protection measures that resulted from the completed Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation will be implemented and strictly followed. APHIS will confer with land managers, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and/or Wyoming Game & Fish personnel once treatment areas are identified to determine if any threatened or endangered species occur and, if so, which mitigating measures are needed for the selected treatment option. Suppression treatments are not likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or their habitats.
4. Socioeconomic issues: Potential suppression efforts would likely have beneficial economic impacts to local landowners and permittees. The forage not utilized by grasshoppers and Mormon crickets will allow for greater wildlife and livestock grazing, decreased needs for supplemental feed and increased monetary returns.
5. Cultural resources and events: USDA APHIS does not anticipate any impact on cultural resources or events. APHIS will confer with BLM on a local level to protect known cultural, pictograph, and petroglyph sites. Where tribal lands are involved, APHIS will confer locally with Tribal Officials and Bureau of Indian Affairs on possible cultural impacts of proposed suppression efforts.
6. Executive Orders 12898 (low income and minorities), 13045 (children), and 13186 (migratory birds): No adverse effects are anticipated on low income and/or minority populations or children because suppression treatments will be conducted primarily on open rangeland where human activity is unlikely. APHIS routinely conducts programs in a manner that minimizes the impact to the environment, including any impact to migratory birds.

The time between the receipt of a request for treatment and the start of a suppression program is very short. APHIS made the draft EA available for public comment from March 20th until April 20th 2022 in order to allow the public to provide input on the proposed program.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA, the implementation of the treatment guidelines (containing the operational procedures) the protection measures for endangered and threatened species, and the comments received I have determined that the proposed suppression program will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Bruce Shambaugh /s/

6/9/2022

Bruce Shambaugh
State Plant Health Director

Date