

Finding of No Significant Impact
for
PIERCE, COUNTY
WASHINGTON

2011 APHIS Cooperative Gypsy Moth Eradication Program
Site-Specific Environmental Assessment

The United States Department of Agriculture, (USDA), in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Agriculture, (WSDA), proposes an eradication program to eliminate isolated infestations and/or introductions of the non-native Gypsy Moth, *Lymantria dispar*, (Linnaeus), in Pierce county, Washington during the spring of 2011. Under the process described in the National Environment Policy Act, 1969 (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to analyze the effect of the proposed action at the site-specific level. The environmental consequences of this program are analyzed in this EA, which is supported by and tiered to the "Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: a cooperative approach, Final Environmental Impact Statement, November 1995", (FEIS). The USDA examined the six alternatives available in the FEIS and has selected the preferred Alternative 6, which consists of suppression, eradication, and slow the spread. Under alternative 6, several treatment options are available for Gypsy Moth management. The treatment options analyzed included:

- 1) No action
- 2) *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* (Btk); a biological insecticide
- 3) Diflubenzuron; a chemical insecticide
- 4) Gypsy Moth nucleopolyhedrosis virus (NPV) or Gypchek; a biological insecticide
- 5) Mass trapping, Gypsy Moth traps with disparlure to attract male Gypsy Moths
- 6) Mating disruption, aerial application of disparlure
- 7) Sterile insect release, release of sterile or partially-sterile Gypsy Moth life stages

The potential environment impacts and mitigation measures of these treatment options are described in the FEIS and EA. The EA was prepared by the USDA and WSDA. The FEIS and EA are available for review at the following locations:

USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Office of the State Plant Health Director
33400 9th Ave. S., Suite 200
Federal Way, WA 98003

Washington State Library
6880 Capitol Blvd. S
Tumwater, WA 98501

USDA-APHIS-PPQ
APHIS Library, 1st floor
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737

A cooperative USDA/WSDA eradication project is selected. This cooperative program selects the preferred Alternative 6: specifically eradication, due to the geographic location of Washington State. The USDA / WSDA Gypsy Moth eradication strategy proposed for 2011 includes utilizing three to five ground applications of the biological insecticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, (*Btk*), applied to all foliage within the treatment areas. Treatments will begin in late April and will conclude by early June. The exact number and timing of treatments will depend larval development, foliage development and weather conditions. The insecticide may be mixed with the spreader-sticker Bond during ground treatments. The success of the applications will be monitored by intensive trapping in the summer of 2011.

No comments were received during the 30-day public comment period. For more information on implementation of this program, please refer to the site specific 2011 EA. Implementation of this program, with associated operating procedures and mitigation measures as identified in the EA, would ensure that no significant adverse environmental impact would occur to the human environment.

Reasons for the finding of no significant impact include:

- A. B.t.k. used as described in the Environmental Assessment presents minimal risk of significant impact on human health.
- B. It is not anticipated that any non-target animal or plant populations would be adversely affected due to the limited size of the treatment areas. Any detrimental effects on susceptible non-target organisms would be transient and these populations would recover as individuals from nearby untreated areas re-colonized the treatment areas.
- C. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive species would be adversely affected by this eradication project.
- D. No detrimental effects on vegetation, water, or soil are known or anticipated due to this eradication project.
- E. No cumulative effects are known or anticipated.

This EA is consistent with Executive Order No. 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." That implementation of this cooperative USDA/WSDA eradication project will not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority populations and low-income populations. As required by the Executive Order of the President, opportunities for full participation in the NEPA process by such populations have been provided.



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United States Department of Agriculture
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine

April 8, 2011

Date