

Finding of No Significant Impact
Eradication of Isolated Populations of Light Brown Apple Moth in California
Revised Environmental Assessment
July, 2007

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has prepared a revised environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes potential environmental consequences of eradicating isolated populations of light brown apple moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*) (LBAM) in California. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available online at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/downloads/lbam-ea-07-18-07.pdf and from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Emergency and Domestic Programs
Emergency Management
4700 River Road, Unit 134
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The revised EA analyzed alternatives consisting of (1) maintaining the Federal quarantine order without further action by APHIS (no action alternative), and (2) continuation of the Federal quarantine order along with eradication of isolated populations of LBAM in California with the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) and/or LBAM-specific pheromone (treatment alternative). The revised EA evaluated the potential impacts from eradication treatments of small, isolated populations and determined that any potential impacts would be limited. Since the circumstances surrounding each isolated population are unique, each site is considered in a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) prior to treatment. This FONSI addresses the treatment for LBAM in Davis, California.

Treatment in Davis, California

The city of Davis, is located within Yolo County, California and is home to University of California, Davis. Davis, California has a total population of 62,724 as of 2007. The town has incorporated an extensive network of bike lanes and bike paths to encourage use of bicycles and many residents commute around the city via bicycles. Davis is located in the Pacific Flyway, a major migration route for waterfowl and other North American birds. The three treatment sites are in developed residential areas within the incorporated area of the city of Davis.

Three male LBAM have been found in three separate traps within Davis, California over the past eight weeks. The first find was located on a small subdivision street named Nantuckett Terrace. The second find is to the Northwest of the first find and is located on the corner of Russell Street and Oak Street which is across the street from the University of California, Davis campus. The third find was located off of University Blvd near the first find. All of these finds are more than 10 miles away from the LBAM interior state quarantine and therefore meet the criteria for an isolated population site. An eradication zone has been defined around the three treatment areas so that future finds within this zone can be treated (see attachment 1). This FONSI addresses not only treatments for the three finds, but also

any additional future finds within the eradication zone. Maps for future treatment sites within the eradication zone will be posted online at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/lbam.shtml.

When an LBAM is found within the eradication zone, a 200 meter radius treatment area is created. Currently there are only three treatments within the eradication zone. Within each treatment area Isomate-LBAM plus (pheromone-impregnated twist ties) will be used at a rate of 250 dispensers per acre by attaching the twist ties to trees, shrubs, and other fixtures. The twist ties allow for the continual release of pheromone over the course of 120 days. The twist ties will be removed after two LBAM life cycles (a lifecycle could be up to six months in certain areas). In some cases the twist ties may be replaced for additional treatments. When all treatments are completed, the twist ties will be removed.

The revised EA evaluated the potential impacts of eradication treatments of small isolated populations like the ones in this FONSI. Due to the nature of the dispenser and the pheromone itself, there will be no effects to human health and limited, if any, effects to nontarget species because the product is contained in dispensers that are tied to fixtures and will be removed after treatment. The pheromone itself has been shown to attract several native tortricids as well as a pyralid based on trap catches that are baited with LBAM pheromone. However, each of these species has a widespread distribution and therefore any effects on these non-targets will be minimal and localized. In addition, there will be no negative cumulative effects from this action in combination with any other actions because the treatments in isolated population areas will not be combined with other LBAM eradication tools. The use of twist ties in these areas is not expected to result in any adverse impacts to humans, fish, or wildlife that exist in the area.

APHIS has reviewed the proposed twist tie eradication area to assess the potential for the co-occurrence of listed species or critical habitat in the eradication area and determined no federally listed species or critical habitats will be affected by this action. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has reviewed the proposed action and agrees that the deployment of twist ties will not affect any listed species or critical habitat. No species under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service will be affected by this treatment. A complete administrative record of this consultation is available upon request.

APHIS' finding of no significant impact for the treatments within the eradication zone is based upon the expected limited environmental consequences, as analyzed in the July 2007, revised EA. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared if implementation of the proposed action may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. I have determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the treatment alternative and, therefore, no EIS needs to be prepared.

 ACTING ASST
FOR: Osama El-Lissy DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR Date 8/11/09
Emergency and Domestic Programs
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency

