

**PPQ Deputy Administrator's Outstanding Achievement Award  
Submission Form**

**Name:** Dewey Murray

**Job Title and Organization:** PPQ - Domestic Program Coordinator

**Address:** 3658 E. Chipman Road, Phoenix, AZ 85040

**Telephone:** 602-431-8930

**Fax:** 602-438-0877

**Email:** [Dewey.W.Murray@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Dewey.W.Murray@aphis.usda.gov)

I would like to nominate Domestic Program Coordinator, Mr. Dewey Murray for the PPQ Deputy Administrator's Outstanding Achievement Award. Mr. Murray demonstrated outstanding perseverance and cooperation and has created a long term relationship with members of the San Carlos Apache Nation. The result of his efforts has enabled him to safeguard and protect the natural resources of the San Carlos Apache Nation.

In 2003, Mr. Murray attempted to acquire permits to conduct grasshopper surveys on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. He provided Stephanie White, the Senior Biologist, the required information for survey work. Mr. Murray was not given a permit and received no further communication from the tribe. Additional attempts to procure a permit in 2004 and 2005 were unsuccessful.

In 2006, Mr. Murray went to the San Carlos Agency of BIA and explained our rangeland grasshopper program. He was able to persuade members of the San Carlos Agency of BIA of the importance of conducting a grasshopper survey. Bob Hetzler worked with him on grasshopper surveys that year on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. This was the first time PPQ was granted access in over 18 years to conduct grasshopper surveys on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. The surveys showed grasshopper populations in the high teens to low twenties per square yard. The survey completed, Mr. Murray prepared various scenarios based on the grasshopper populations. His scenarios validated what the San Carlos Agency of BIA had been observing on the San Carlos Apache Reservation; less grass available for cattle, and a growing grasshopper population. The San Carlos Agency of BIA was so impressed with Mr. Murray's survey results, presentations, and understanding of the grasshopper situation that they arranged for him to meet with the Tribal Council. Mr. Murray made his initial presentation on grasshopper survey results and predictions to the Tribal Council in the fall of that year.

In 2007, Mr. Murray was asked by the Tribal Council to work with Teresa Goseyun, Tribal Range Conservationist, from the San Carlos Apache Reservation on grasshopper surveys. During the 2007 season, Dewey surveyed the San Carlos Apache Reservation and found 5,000 acres heavily infested. He met with the Natural Resource Committee of the Tribal Council to explain the conditions of the range and offer available recovery options for damage inflicted to the range. PPQ did not have an Environmental Assessment in place in Arizona at that time and the tribe did not request treatment that

year. Grasshopper treatments had not been conducted in Arizona since the late 1980's. During and after the grasshopper survey season, Mr. Murray was asked to attend several meetings with the tribal council, each time providing additional information and answering tribal council members' questions, resulting in the decision was for Land Operations of BIA to work closely with Dewey to safeguard the rangeland.

The fall 2007 and winter of 2008, Mr. Murray prepared an Environmental Assessment in anticipation that the San Carlos Apache Reservation would make a formal request to PPQ for grasshopper treatment. He worked through several issues to complete this assignment. Since no rangeland grasshopper treatment had been conducted in over twenty years, Mr. Murray had to prepare new documentation for Arizona. To determine all the Threatened and Endangered Species on the San Carlos Apache Reservation, he held several consultations with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Natural Resources Committee of the Tribal Council. Notifications of the potential treatment had to be prepared and publication sources had to be secured. Finally, with help from the Arizona Department of Agriculture, he determined the chemicals registered in Arizona for usage, and also approved by PPQ for grasshopper treatment.

In February and March 2008, Mr. Murray conducted grasshopper surveys on the San Carlos Apache Reservation and based on nymphal surveys he determined that there would be a need for a grasshopper treatment. He presented this information to the Tribal Council and on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and received a letter of request from the tribal chairman for survey work and treatments to be conducted on the San Carlos Apache Nation.

On April 25, 2008, Mr. Murray finally received a concurrence letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Environmental Assessment that would be implemented for any treatments on the San Carlos Reservation. The FONSI was signed on May 2, 2008 and on May 6, 2008 treatment was initiated on approximately 360 acres on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Grasshopper densities, at that time, were 40gh/sqyd. Later that week, Mr. Murray conducted another treatment at a different location on approximately 136 acres where densities were over 30gh/sqyd.

On May 28, 2008, Mr. Murray received a request from the tribal ranch manager of R-100 to survey an area of R-100 tribal ranch which reportedly had very large numbers of grasshoppers. On May 29, 2008, he surveyed the area (R-100) finding densities around 60gh/sqyd over much of the acreage. This was one of the largest infestations in Arizona in recent history. He began treating June 3, 2008, eventually treating approximately 760 acres in this location.

On the first two treatments, mentioned above, Mr. Murray with assistance from the San Carlos Apache Reservation personnel was able to complete these treatments within a few days. The resource (personnel and equipment) requirements for the third treatment were larger than local PPQ and the San Carlos Apache Reservation could supply. Mr. Murray then requested assistance from New Mexico and with the additional equipment and personnel; he was able to complete this treatment within a short period of time.

These treatments suppressed grasshopper populations, from 70% to 90% of the original densities. The total acreage treated to date on the San Carlos Apache Nation is 1,256 acres and resulting in the protection of 2,512 acres from grasshopper damage.

With perseverance and cooperation, Mr. Murray was able to help safeguard and protect the natural resources on the San Carlos Apache Nation.

In five short years, Mr. Murray has earned the respect and trust of the San Carlos Apache Nation. His actions, hardwork and dedication have come to be recognized by this tribe, and is deserving of this award.

**Mission of PPQ:** APHIS-PPQ safeguards agriculture and natural resources from the risks associated with the entry, establishment, or spread of animal and plant pests and noxious weeds. Fulfillment of its safeguarding role ensures an abundant, high-quality, and varied food supply, strengthens the marketability of U.S. agriculture in domestic and international commerce, and contributes to the preservation of the global environment.