



United States
Department of
Agriculture

April 16, 2009

Marketing and
Regulatory Programs

Dear Stakeholder:

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection Service

The USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), propose an eradication program for a breeding population of gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar*, in Lane County, Oregon. This letter is to announce that the final Environmental Assessment (EA), "Gypsy Moth Eradication Program, Southeast Eugene, Lane County, April 9, 2009." has now been completed. This site-specific EA is designed to fulfill National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and assist in the decision making process by examining the environmental consequences of different alternatives that may accomplish the program's goal.

Plant Protection
and Quarantine

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We would like to thank those who assisted us during the preparation of this EA. Some of you provided the information on the endangered and threatened species in and around the proposed eradication area. Others assisted us with the human health concerns of *B.t.k.* applications. We appreciate your comments, suggestions and concerns about the proposed eradication program. This year, about a dozen written comments on the draft EA were received. Additionally about 60 emails were received regarding the proposed program. Some of these emails were not necessarily commenting on the draft EA but rather simply stating opposition to, or support for, the proposed program.

The federal Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to implement the proposed eradication program has been signed. The Director of ODA has also signed the decision to implement the proposal to eradicate the breeding gypsy moth population in Lane County. Three aerial applications of the biological pesticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (*B.t.k.*), will be applied to 626 acres in Southeast Eugene, Lane County. Treatments will begin in late April 2009, and applications will be about 7-14 days apart. Exact timing depends on weather. Afterwards the eradication site will also be intensively trapped using gypsy moth sex pheromone attractant to monitor effectiveness of the treatment.

These documents are available for public review. An electronic version is available on the USDA APHIS PPQ website, http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/gm.shtml, and on the ODA, Plant Division website, http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/IPPM/gm_ea09.shtml. If you have any questions, or if you would like a paper copy of the documents, please contact either organization at:

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Sincerely,

Mitchell G. Nelson
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and
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