

## **SUPPLEMENTAL DETERMINATION**

### **Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program in Morrow and Umatilla County, Oregon EA Number OR-2010-01**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has prepared a Supplemental Determination that analyzes potential environmental impacts for a grasshopper/Mormon cricket suppression program on range and grassland managed by Department of Defense (DoD), Umatilla Chemical Depot in Morrow and Umatilla County, Oregon. The proposed treatment consists of 3800 acres (+/- 25%) and is near Irrigon, Oregon.

This is a Supplemental Determination to APHIS Environmental Assessment (EA) OR-2010-01, incorporated by reference in this document, and available from USDA APHIS PPQ, Airport Business Center, 6135 NE 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite A-5, Portland, OR 97218, or on-line at [http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/IPPM/gh\\_ea10.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/IPPM/gh_ea10.shtml). During the EA comment period APHIS received two comments, in writing, from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CITUR) and the Klamath Tribes. The Klamath Tribes comments were directed at EA OR-2010-02 Klamath County. However the comments regarded wording in the EA pertaining to tribal resources, and resulted in changes being made to both EAs. APHIS' response to comments is included as an attachment to this Supplemental Determination.

At the request of the Umatilla Chemical Depot a suppression program is planned to control grasshoppers by treating a zone of one quarter to one and a half miles of the border between Federal and private irrigated cropland to lessen the impact of grasshoppers migrating onto private pasture and/or cropland. This area was heavily impacted by grasshoppers in 2005 resulting in heavy crop damage along the north border of the refuge and many private landowner complaints. The infestation is more severe and a larger acreage is involve this year. As the vegetation dries out the grasshoppers will again seek out nearby crops if left unchecked. The dense populations are comprised of several economically damaging species including *Aulocara ellioti*, *Oedaleonotus enigma*, *Melanoplus sanguinipes*, *M. packardii*, and *M. femurrubrum*.

#### **Resources in the Suppression Area and Protection Measures and/or Mitigations:**

The area under consideration for treatment involves approximately 3800 +/- acres along the west and north boundary of the Umatilla Chemical Depot. Some of the area to north includes DoD property outside the Depot security fence which has recently been used as cattle rangeland. The area inside the Depot security fence is generally little used shrub-steppe biotype. It has been severely altered by human

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activity including old buildings, bunkers, roads, and railroad tracks used in the production and storage of weapons. There is an active shooting range in the spray block, but for the most part the treatment areas are little used. The area is extremely dry. The nearest water is the West Extension Irrigation District irrigation ditch which is over ½ mile from the proposed spray block.

The Depot has a biologist on staff and keeps a record of species of concern found on the Depot. There are no federally listed threatened or endangered species in or within buffering requirement distance of the proposed treatment area. Federal and state listed sensitive species not covered in detail in the EA, that may be present in the area at the time of treatment, include burrowing owl, sagebrush lizard, short horned lizard, loggerhead shrike, grasshopper sparrow, bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, peregrine falcon, and long billed curlew.

Dimilin will have no direct effect on birds, reptiles or mammals. Insects, including grasshoppers, make up a portion of the diet of these species. A reduction in grasshoppers as prey may result from this suppression program. However, mature grasshoppers as well as many other insects will be unaffected by Dimilin. Not all grasshoppers present in the treatment area will be killed and grasshoppers from adjacent untreated areas will be unaffected by this program and be available as a food source. This project should not adversely affect any of the listed sensitive species.

The proposed treatment area is on restricted DoD land. Security and Operations personnel have been alerted of treatment areas and times so there should be no exposure to humans, other than the applicators and project monitoring personnel. Applicators will follow safety guidelines and label instructions.

No other chemical applications (insecticides, herbicides) are planned in the area this year, but if they did occur, there will be no cumulative effects from this Dimilin application.

#### **Application Information:**

APHIS proposes to use Dimilin 2L mixed with crop oil, an evaporation control agent, at a rate of 0.75 ounces of active ingredient per acre. Treatment will be done by aircraft. The reduced area agent treatment (RAATs) strategy described on page 10 of the EA, will be partially followed. We will use the reduced rate of 0.75 ounces per acre. However, due the fact that many grasshoppers will be in later instars by the treatment date full coverage will be used and no area in the block will be skipped.


#### **Summary:**

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts within the delimited suppression area, the implementation of the treatment guidelines (containing the

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operational procedures), the buffering of water, and the lack of other sensitive sites in or near the proposed treatment area, APHIS has determined that the proposed suppression program will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

  
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State Plant Health Director

  
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Date

