

National Gypsy Moth Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area

State and Private Forestry



Description: The Northeastern Area in cooperation with USDA APHIS is preparing a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the USDA national gypsy moth program. The SEIS will update the 1995 national gypsy moth environmental impact statement (EIS) and the 1996 Record of Decision (ROD) that considered six alternatives for managing gypsy moth in the U.S. The alternative selected for the 1995 EIS was to implement an integrated pest management (IPM) approach, consisting of suppression to reduce damage, eradication to eliminate isolated infestations, and slow the spread to slow the natural and short range artificial spread of gypsy moth (alternative 6).

Key Issues:

- The 1995 EIS is dated and needs a general updating of technical and background information;
- Gypsy moth Slow the Spread has become a significant national strategy;
- Protocols for preparing human health and ecological risk assessments have changed;
- The insect growth regulator tebufenozide needs to be added to the list of approved treatments;
- There is a need to explore and if appropriate adopt a process by which new treatments can be added to the approved list without supplementing the EIS in the future;

Accomplishments:

The SEIS project team is being formed in Morgantown, WV. The SEIS team leader is in place and the entomologist has been selected. The team writer/editor, public affairs specialist, and program assistant are being recruited. The entire team should be in place by April 2004.

Activities to date include: Attending gypsy moth meetings, meeting cooperators and other stakeholders, and giving presentations on the SEIS project. The SEIS team has:

- Developed a timeline and milestones for the SEIS project
- Drafted a Federal Register Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the SEIS
- Begun developing the SEIS mailing list
- Held SEIS kickoff meeting with Forest Service, APHIS and OGC Washington Office staff

Budget History: The national gypsy moth supplemental environmental impact statement is a new project starting with FY 2004. The budget allocated for 2004 is \$400,000.

Future Direction:

- Prepare Draft SEIS for public review by end of 2004

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