



# NEWS RELEASE

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## U.S. Department of Agriculture Agencies Release Gypsy Moth Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Public Comment

MORGANTOWN, WVa— The U.S. Forest Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have released a Gypsy Moth Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public comment. The agencies are seeking public comments regarding the Draft Supplemental EIS during the 45-day comment period. The agencies will use comments received to develop the Final Supplemental EIS.

The agencies are proposing an addition to the gypsy moth management program that was described in the 1995 EIS, *Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: A Cooperative Approach*, that they established in 1996. The current gypsy moth management program supports an integrated pest management approach that includes planning, detection, evaluation, monitoring, defining acceptable damage, and using appropriate management practices to prevent or control gypsy moth-caused damage and losses in the United States.

The agencies are proposing two new treatment options. The first option is adding the insecticide tebufenozide to the list of approved treatments. The second option is adding the insecticide tebufenozide and other new treatment(s) that may become available in the future. These other treatments must not pose a greater risk to human health and non-target organisms than those disclosed in this Draft Supplemental (EIS) for the currently approved treatments and tebufenozide. Three alternatives are being considered in the Draft Supplemental EIS.

**Alternative 1—No Action.** This alternative would maintain the 1996 decision and the current gypsy moth management program; no new treatments would be added to the approved treatments.

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**Alternative 2—Add Tebufenozide.** This alternative would add the insecticide tebufenozide to currently approved treatments.

**Alternative 3—Add Tebufenozide, and Add Other New Treatments Through the Application of the Protocol.** This is the preferred alternative. New treatments in the future would be available for use if they do not pose a greater risk to human health and non-target organisms than those disclosed in this Draft Supplemental EIS for the currently approved treatments and tebufenozide. The Draft Supplemental EIS describes protocols for evaluating future new treatments.

The final decision made through this Draft Supplemental EIS will apply to the overall gypsy moth management program, which consists of suppression projects to reduce damage caused by outbreaks of gypsy moth; eradication projects to eliminate isolated populations of the insect that result from human aided movement; and slow-the-spread projects designed to slow the spread of the insect along the edge of the infested area. The decision to undertake any actual projects will take place after conducting and documenting site-specific environmental analyses in accordance with agency implementing procedures for the National Environmental Policy Act. Proposed projects will also be analyzed for compliance with other Federal and State laws.

Comments must be post marked before November 17, 2008 for consideration in developing the Final Supplemental EIS. Timely comments will enable the Forest Service and APHIS to analyze and respond to all of the comments, and use information to prepare the Final Supplemental EIS. Comments should be specific and substantive to assist reviewers and the agencies develop the Final Supplemental EIS. The Draft Supplemental EIS and other information are available on-line at [www.na.fs.fed.us/wv/eis/](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/wv/eis/).

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