

National Gypsy Moth Management Program

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

*Reducing Damage, Eliminating Isolated Infestations, and
Slowing the Spread*



Description: The gypsy moth is a non-native invasive species that was introduced into Massachusetts in the late 1860s. It is now permanently established in all or parts of 19 Eastern States and the District of Columbia, which is about one-third of the potentially susceptible habitat in the United States. Once established, outbreaks continue indefinitely, reducing tree growth and causing dieback and tree mortality. Gypsy moth has caused defoliation on more than 91 million acres since 1924.

A national environmental impact statement (EIS) guides the response to gypsy moth infestations and outbreaks. Its three strategies seek to 1) reduce the damage caused by outbreaks in the generally infested area (suppression), 2) eliminate isolated infestations that occur outside of the generally infested area (eradication); and 3) reduce the natural and short-range artificial spread into uninfested areas (slow the spread). The Forest Service coordinates with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and others to implement this national gypsy moth management strategy.

Key Issues:

- The Slow the Spread (STS) program targets small, scattered colonies of gypsy moth in front of the leading edge of the generally infested area. The STS project area covers approximately 50 million acres located in a band 1,200 miles long and 65 miles wide across 11 States, from Minnesota to North Carolina.
- STS has reduced the rate of gypsy moth spread by more than 60 percent, from an average of 13 miles per year to less than 5 miles per year, preventing impacts on more than 80 million acres since 2000.
- Early detection and rapid response to eradicate isolated infestations in the uninfested area eliminate the need for larger, more costly and frequent treatments later.
- STS is expected to prevent infestation of more than 150 million acres over the next 20 years.
- By delaying impacts and the costs of suppression projects in newly infested areas, STS has a benefit-to-cost ratio of more than 3:1.
- The largest gypsy moth outbreak in the Mid-Atlantic States since the early 1990s began to abate in 2009, which will likely reduce gypsy moth suppression needs in those areas in 2010.
- The national gypsy moth EIS is in the process of being updated and supplemented with the addition of a new insecticide, tebufenozide.
- A protocol has been added to the supplemental EIS to guide the addition of new tools to the list of approved treatments in the future.

Accomplishments:

- Treatments successfully reduced damage on more than 321,000 acres of Federal, non-Federal public, private, and tribal land in eight States. More than 90 percent of the acreage was treated using a microbial insecticide (*Btk*).
- Approximately 420,000 acres were treated in the STS action area to reduce the rate of spread of gypsy moth. The majority of the acreage was treated using a mating disruption product.
- A new mating disruption product was deployed after 2 years of development and 5 years of field evaluation. Competition between the standard and new product also lowered prices.
- 75,000 pheromone traps were deployed in STS to monitor gypsy moth populations.
- Comments to the draft supplemental EIS were received, categorized, and analyzed, and responses were drafted.

Budget History: Funding for gypsy moth suppression, eradication, and Slow the Spread (STS) projects.

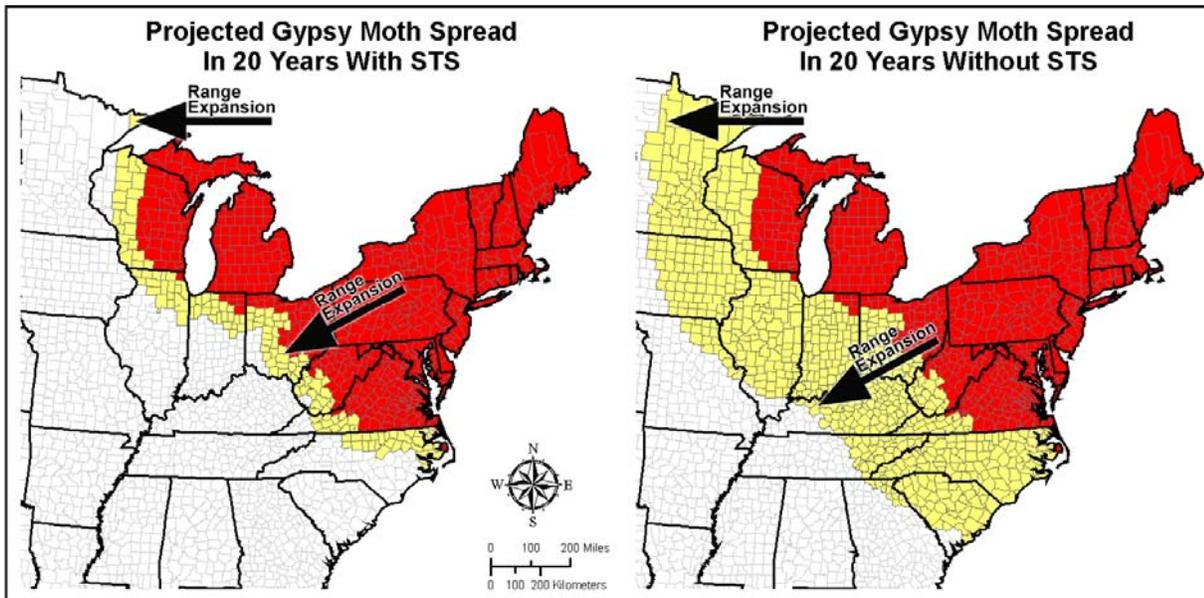
Gypsy Moth (\$ Thousands)				
	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
SPCH	\$3,570	\$4,141	\$5,024	n/a
SPFH	570	224	1,637	n/a
SPCH (STS) ¹	6,706	6,557	6,049	7,299
SPFH (STS) ¹	1,544	1,951	1,951	3,201
Totals	\$12,390	\$12,873	\$14,661	\$10,500

¹ Total national funding for STS includes funding allocated to the Northeastern Area.

Future Direction:

- Print the final Supplemental EIS and sign the Record of Decision in 2010
- Continue monitoring and support for suppression, eradication, and STS treatment needs
- Promote the STS business model as a template for responding to other invasive forest pests

The gypsy moth STS program is expected to prevent the gypsy moth from spreading to an additional 150 million acres during the next 20 years.



Kathryn Maloney, Director
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4103 (4177-FAX)
kmaloney@fs.fed.us

Jerry Boughton, Assistant Director
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
(610) 557-4180 (4136-FAX)
jboughton@fs.fed.us

Noel F. Schneeberger, Entomologist
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
(610) 557-4121 (4136-FAX)
nschneeberger@fs.fed.us



<http://www.na.fs.fed.us>

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