

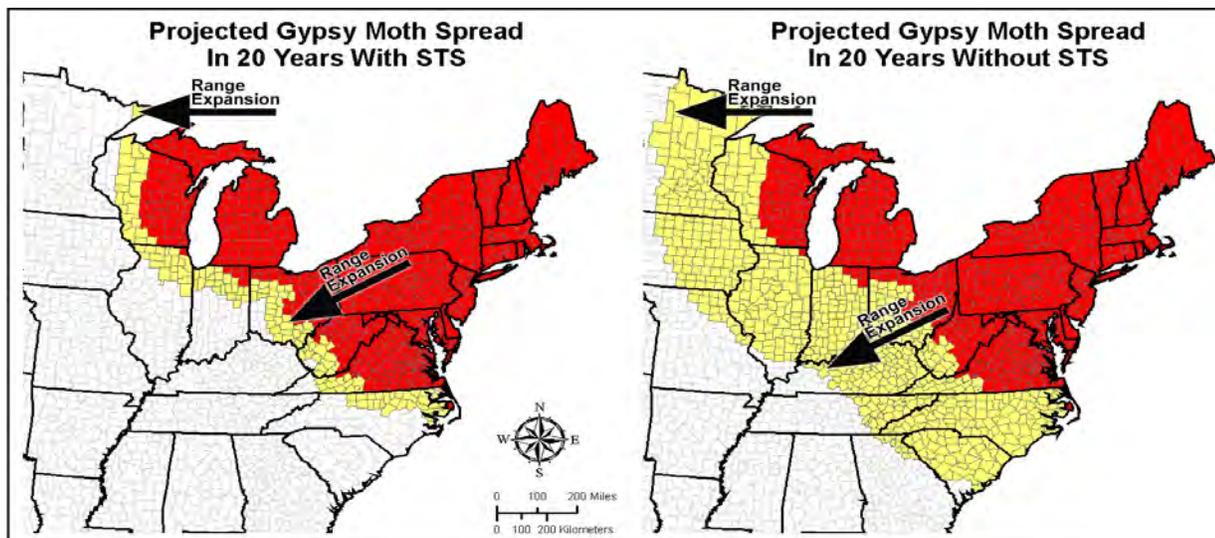
National Gypsy Moth Management Program

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

Reducing damage and slowing the spread



Description: The gypsy moth is a nonnative invasive insect that was introduced into Massachusetts in the late 1860s and is now established in all or parts of 19 Eastern States and the District of Columbia, or roughly one-third of its potential habitat in the United States. Once gypsy moth becomes established, outbreaks continue indefinitely. Outbreaks reduce tree growth and increase tree dieback, which eventually kill trees. Gypsy moth has defoliated trees on more than 91 million acres since 1924.



The gypsy moth Slow the Spread (STS) program is expected to prevent gypsy moth from spreading into an additional 150 million acres over the next 20 years.

A national environmental impact statement (EIS) guides the response to gypsy moth infestations and outbreaks across a 50-million-acre Slow the Spread (STS) project area, which is 1,200 miles long and 65 miles wide. STS covers 11 States from Minnesota to North Carolina and targets small, scattered gypsy moth colonies that are detected along the advancing front of the generally infested area.

The national EIS outlines three strategies: reduce the damage caused by outbreaks in the generally infested area (**suppression**), eliminate isolated infestations outside the generally infested area (**eradication**), and reduce the moth's natural and short-range artificial spread into currently uninfested areas (**slow the spread**). The Forest Service coordinates with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and others to implement the national gypsy moth management strategy.

Key Issues:

- STS has reduced the gypsy moth rate of spread by more than 60 percent from an average of 13 miles per year to less than 5 miles per year. This reduction has prevented environmental damage and financial losses on more than 90 million acres since 2000. The program is expected to prevent infestation of more than 150 million acres over the next 20 years.
- Early detection and rapid response that eradicate isolated infestations outside the generally infested area eliminate the need for larger, more costly, and frequent treatments later. By delaying impacts and suppression costs 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 has abated since 2009, which will further reduce gypsy moth suppression needs in those areas in 2011.

- The national gypsy moth EIS is being updated and supplemented with the addition of a new insecticide, tebufenozide.
- A protocol has been added to the supplemental EIS to guide the future addition of new tools to the list of approved treatments.

Accomplishments:

- Gypsy moth outbreaks were successfully treated to reduce damage on more than 321,000 acres of Federal, non-Federal public, private, and Tribal lands in eight States. More than 90 percent of the acreage was treated using a microbial insecticide (*Btk*).
- Approximately 532,000 acres were treated in the STS action area to reduce the gypsy moth’s rate of spread. The majority of the acreage was treated using a gypsy moth-specific 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 resulted in lower prices.
- Ninety thousand 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: Figures for the gypsy moth STS program represent the total national funding for the program. Funds are allocated to the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry and Southern Region (R-8) based upon the annual STS plan of work approved by the STS Foundation Board of Directors. The budget for FY 2011 is to be determined.

Gypsy Moth STS Program (Dollars, thousands)				
Source	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management	6,557	6,049	7,299	
Federal Lands Forest Health Management	1,951	1,951	3,201	
Totals	\$8,608	\$8,000	\$10,500	

Future Direction:

- Print the final Supplemental EIS and sign the Record of Decision in 2011.
- Continue monitoring and providing support for suppression, eradication, and STS treatment needs.
- Promote the STS business model as a template for responding to other invasive forest pests.

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