

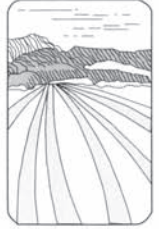


# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Agriculture

635 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-2532



February 15, 2007

TO: Residents and stakeholders in the area of McNutty Creek, St. Helens High School, and Hwy 30 in Columbia County and other interested parties

*Kathleen J.R. Johnson*

FROM: Kathleen J.R. Johnson, Insect Pest Prevention and Management, Program Supervisor

SUBJECT: **Proposed Asian Gypsy Moth Eradication Program Public Information Meeting**

An Asian gypsy moth was found in St. Helens along the Columbia River in 2006. DNA analysis indicates that it apparently originated from China or Korea. Asian gypsy moth is native to Asia and the Russian Far-east. Unlike European (North American) gypsy moth, female Asian gypsy moths (AGM) are strong fliers and are attracted to lights, allowing populations to spread much more rapidly. AGM caterpillars develop more quickly and grow somewhat larger. AGM feeds on a broader range of host trees including conifers such as larch that are not favored by European gypsy moths. Other conifers may be at risk. These factors make AGM a significant exotic threat. An aerial eradication program using the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* is being proposed for approximately 640 acres in late April and May 2007 (see map). The current proposed eradication area and possible sources of AGM are under review by the Science Advisory Panel. We expect their final recommendations soon. Information about the public information meeting, Asian gypsy moth, the eradication program, follow-up monitoring, and public comment opportunities are provided in this notice.

A public information meeting, conducted by the ODA, Plant Division, will be held to discuss the Asian gypsy moth eradication program proposed for your area. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations at the public information meeting should contact Kathleen Johnson, as soon as possible at 1-800-525-0137 or by email at [gypsymoth@oda.state.or.us](mailto:gypsymoth@oda.state.or.us)

When: March 1, 2007 7:00 pm

Where: St. Helens High School, 2375 Gable Road, St. Helens, OR. 97501

- Focus of the meeting:**
- **The Asian gypsy moth in Oregon and the gypsy moth detections in your area.**
  - **Alternatives considered for dealing with Asian gypsy moth.**
  - **The eradication and trapping programs proposed for your area.**
  - **Answer questions from the audience about the proposed programs.**

## THE GYPSY MOTH IN OREGON

**Gypsy moth is not welcome in Oregon!** Accidentally introduced into the U.S. from Europe in 1869, it now infests all or part of 18 states, mostly in the northeastern U.S., where it defoliates about 3 million acres of woodlands per year. Gypsy moth has the potential to impact Oregon's home and property owners, businesses, agricultural commodities, watersheds, forest lands, urban and suburban environments, recreational opportunities, tourism and wildlife. Such impacts occur through direct and indirect effects of the loss of foliage and trees due to expanding gypsy moth populations and restrictive quarantines imposed on our export commodities. Defoliation in watersheds and along streams could adversely impact water quality and salmon and trout populations.

Gypsy moth was first detected in Oregon in 1979. Since then various localized infestations have been discovered throughout the state. These isolated infestations are always caused by artificial, human-aided movement and not by natural means. In order to keep Oregon gypsy moth-free, when an infestation is found it is eradicated as quickly as possible. All infestations found so far have been successfully eradicated. Early detection and eradication of gypsy moth infestations have been goals of the Oregon Department of Agriculture to prevent environmental and economic losses from occurring in Oregon.

### **ERADICATION PROPOSAL**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture, Plant Division, in cooperation with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - Plant Protection and Quarantine, is proposing an eradication program using the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk) followed by an intensive Asian gypsy moth trapping program. The treatment program will consist of an eradication area of approximately 640 acres roughly from about Sykes Rd. to Millard Rd. and from about Whitetail Ave. to Old Portland Rd. (see map). It is likely that a small buffer area surrounding this eradication area will receive some Btk, but in quantities much less than inside the eradication area.

Btk is a biological insecticide containing a naturally occurring bacterium which specifically attacks only the caterpillar stage of many moths and butterflies. It can be applied over water without endangering aquatic life. Ingestion of leaves treated with Btk suppresses the caterpillars' appetites and slows movement. Caterpillars generally die within several days. Btk does not affect healthy humans and other mammals, birds, fish, or most non-target insects. This is the same insecticide that has been used in many urban and rural areas in Oregon including: Portland, Gresham, Beaverton, West Linn, Hillsboro, Lake Oswego, Carver, Salem, Aumsville, Corvallis, Philomath, Eugene, Springfield, Veneta, Dorena Lake, Lane County, Douglas County, Cave Junction, Jacksonville, and Ashland. The Btk product we propose to use will be Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B. Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B is an aqueous formulation that has been used in many previous gypsy moth eradication and control programs in both rural and urban areas of Oregon and other states.

### **APPLICATION METHOD**

Aerial application of Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B is the only practical and economical means of treating an area of this size with limited accessibility and large numbers of tall trees. Three applications are planned at about 7 to 14 day intervals. Spraying will be done by either helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft, beginning at first light. Only a small amount of Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B (0.5 gallons) will be applied per acre. The first application is proposed to take place in late April. This same application procedure has been used in many successful gypsy moth eradication programs in both urban and rural areas of Oregon as well as other states.

### **TRAPPING PROGRAM**

A post-treatment Asian gypsy moth trapping program will begin in May. The trapping program is crucial to evaluate the success of the treatment program and to pinpoint as precisely as possible any residual Asian gypsy moth populations. Trap densities will range from 25-49 traps per square mile for five miles from the center of the treatment area. In the core area the density of traps may be greater. Permission will be sought prior to placing traps on any property. Since the success of the eradication program depends on traps being placed at a certain density and by a certain date, we would appreciate your cooperation in allowing traps to be placed on your property next summer.

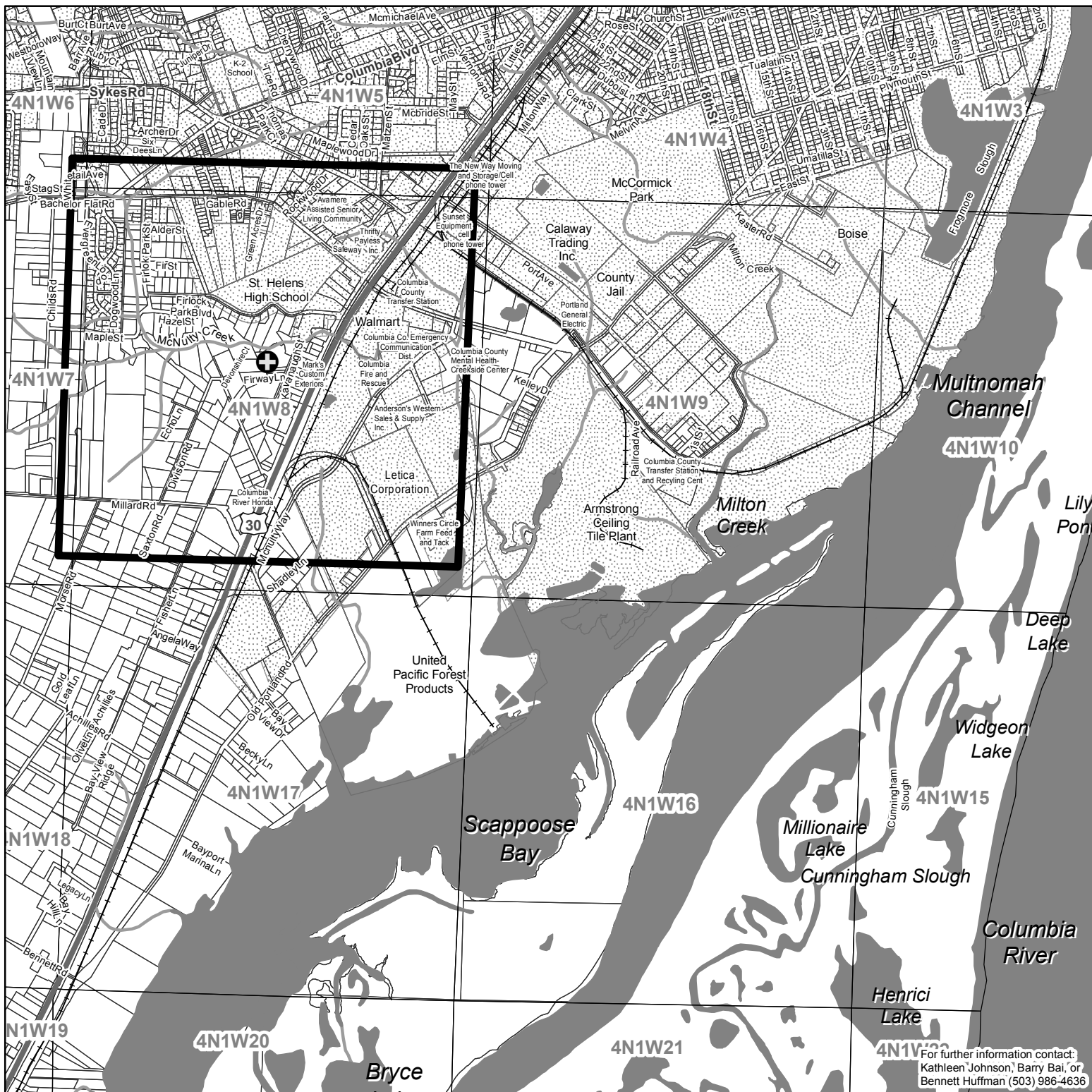
### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Significant efforts are made to obtain and address questions, issues and concerns about the proposed eradication program. Your comments are an important part of the decision making process. A draft project Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess possible environmental impacts of the proposed program. Copies of the draft project EA are available on the ODA Web site at <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/index.shtml> and from the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Plant Division Office in Salem, OR. We will also make copies available at the public information meeting announced in this notice. A final project EA that considers public comments on the draft project EA will be completed to fulfill federal requirements for cooperative state-federal gypsy moth eradication programs. The review and comment period will end at close-of-business, March 19, 2007.

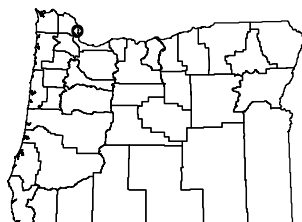
# Proposed 2007 Asian Gypsy Moth Eradication Program St. Helens, Columbia County








Proposed 640 acre eradication area.

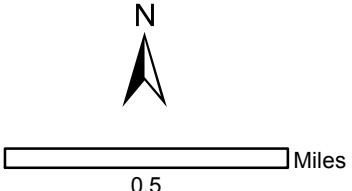
It is likely that a small buffer area surrounding the eradication area will receive some B.t.k. but in quantities much less than inside the eradication area.



For further information contact:  
Kathleen Johnson, Barry Bai, or  
Bennett Huffman (503) 986-4636



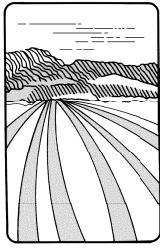
-  eradication area
-  2006 positive trap
-  waterbody
-  watercourse
-  railroad
-  taxlot
-  city limits



Data Source(s): Oregon Geospatial Data Clearinghouse, ESRI Street-Map USA, Columbia County, Pacific Northwest Hydrography Framework  
Prepared By: kschwartz  
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Projection: Oregon Lambert Coord. Syst.  
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File: D:\trapmaps07\Columbia County\AGM07\_EA\_8x11\_B&W.mxd



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**Oregon**  
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## **Asian Gypsy Moth Eradication Program Public Information Meeting Notice**

**For more information on gypsy moth, visit**

**<http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/index.shtml>**

**To request a copy of the draft project Environmental Assessment  
or to submit comments, please call, fax, write or email:**

**Kathleen J.R. Johnson  
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Plant Division  
635 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-2532**

**1-800-525-0137; Fax: (503) 986-4786; [gypsymoth@oda.state.or.us](mailto:gypsymoth@oda.state.or.us)**

The final decision on any implementation of the proposed program will be made by the Director of the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture once the public comment period and final project EA are completed. If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, please contact Barry Bai (503) 986-4645 or Kathleen Johnson at (503) 986-4662 or toll-free 1-800-525-0137. Please check your local phone book for TTY/TDD telecommunications service.