

June 10, 2005

SUCCESS STORY

Subject: Slow the Spread of the gypsy moth

Ten states located along the leading edge of gypsy moth populations, together with the USDA Forest Service (FS) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have been cooperatively implementing a project to slow the spread of the gypsy moth (STS).

Integrating STS into USDA's strategy to manage the gypsy moth has:

- Reduced the spread of this invasive pest by 60% from the historical average of 21 km per year. Without this project, the gypsy moth would be established on about 30 million additional acres across eleven states.
- Unified the partners, increased accountability and promoted action based on biological need rather than availability of matching funds through the use of a novel management structure – the STS Foundation.
- Involved the states of Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, and North Carolina. Tennessee and Iowa will likely join the program in the near future.

During 2004 the Forest Service provided \$11,000,000; State partners provided \$2,794,000; and APHIS provided \$270,000 toward the project.

STS has successfully slowed the gypsy moth enough that North Carolina and Tennessee forest have not received the extensive damage seen in other States.

STS has enjoyed good support from Congress in that it has been fully funded for the past several years.