PPQ Deputy's Safeguarding Award
Submission Form

1. Name, Address, Organization and Job Title, and Phone Number of Nominee (if a group is being submitted, provide the contact information for the entire group)

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- James Carpenter, USDA, ARS, P.O. 748, Tifton, GA 31793, Research Entomologist, 229-387-2348
- Stephen Hight, USDA, ARS, 6383 Mahan Dr., Tallahassee, FL, 32308, Research Entomologist, 850-656-9870, ext 18
- Billy Newton, USDA, APHIS, PPQ, 920 Main Campus Dr., Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27606, Senior Regional Program Manager, 919-855-7335
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- Ron Weeks, , USDA, APHIS, PPQ- CPHST, 3505 25th Ave., Bldg. 16, Gulfport, MS 39501, Entomologist, 228-822-3118
- Craig Hinton, USDA, APHIS, PPQ- CPHST, 3505 25th Ave., Bldg. 16, Gulfport, MS 39501, Laboratory Technician, 228-822-3118

2. Describe the action that enhanced safeguarding.

The *Cactoblastis cactorum* Cooperative Program has been successful in halting the westward movement of this pest population along the US Gulf Coast at its 2004 detected leading edge. The host removal and sterile release program implemented in Alabama has now moved from primarily a research effort by the USDA, Agriculture Research Service, with some PPQ program activity to a greater degree of PPQ operations with research support. A regulatory program to prevent artificial movement of the pest through nursery stock is close to being implemented. Surveys are being conducted yearly in all southern and western states by PPQ and by State, Department of Interior, and non-governmental cooperators. For the past two years, Mexico's Secretería de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo, Rural, Pesca y Alimentación (SAGARPA), has jointly funded the US research and operational program in awhat is an unprecendented off-shore mitigation program for them. The cooperation has resulted in good information exchange, regular assistance, and technology transfer to Mexico in help with their recently discovered infestations.

3. How did the action enhance safeguarding?

At the rate *C. cactorum* was dispersing in Florida when the program began, it was expected to reach Texas by 2007, but the barrier created by host removal and sterile release has prevented it from moving past Dauphin Island, Alabama, thus protecting *Opuntia* resources in the Southwestern United States and Mexico.

4. How does it demonstrate innovation or initiative?

This is the first time the sterile insect technique has been successfully used against an invasive species that is not an agricultural pest. It is also the first time Mexico has funded a program in the United States substantially ($ 463,000 in 2006 and $ 456,000 in 2007 ($ 5 million pesos). The program has also been innovative in engaging non-traditional partners such as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Park Service, the state parks associations, The Nature Conservancy, and volunteers through a US Geological Survey/Mississippi State University Cactus Moth Detection and Monitoring Network database partnered with PPQ efforts. We are in the discussion phase of integrating Mexico into the effort.

5. Which of the four areas of the Safeguarding Review does the activity support? Check one:
- □ Gathering and use of international information about pests/pathways
- X Exclusion
- X Pest Detection and Response
- □ Permits (managing the movement of pests through permit systems)

6. What recommendation or safeguarding principle does the action support? Cite a specific recommendation from the review or the principle reflected in a recommendation or series of recommendations.

E-12 Identify areas where it will lead and partner with other agencies in implementation of the Executive Order on Invasive Species
E-25 Identify other pests in Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico that may migrate into the U.S. naturally and develop suppression strategies to prevent or postpone entry.
E-26 Expand production capacity of sterile insects to support existing and potential sterile release programs.
D-30 Form stronger partnerships with external research agencies such as USDA-ARS and other Federal, State, and research institutions for methods development.
I-23 The PPQ and IS should develop and implement a coordinated plan to integrate the various database efforts on pests not known to occur in the United States with those of other organizations, both nationally and internationally. Thus, PPQ and IS should seek out mutually beneficial arrangements with USGS, EPA, U.S. universities, and international organizations (FAO, IPPC, etc.)

7. Provide any information that demonstrates the outcome/success of the activity.

The population of *C. cactorum* has not been detected west of its 2004 location in Alabama where our efforts to establish a barrier are taking place. There is more awareness about the threat of *C. cactorum* to the Southwestern United States and Mexico, and APHIS has the attention of the conservation community for mitigating the affects of an invasive species that is largely an ecosystem pest in the United States. Our cooperative program with ARS and SAGARPA has been successful in assisting in detection and eradication activities off the coast of the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico. SAGARPA has plans to continue funding the cooperative program in FY08.