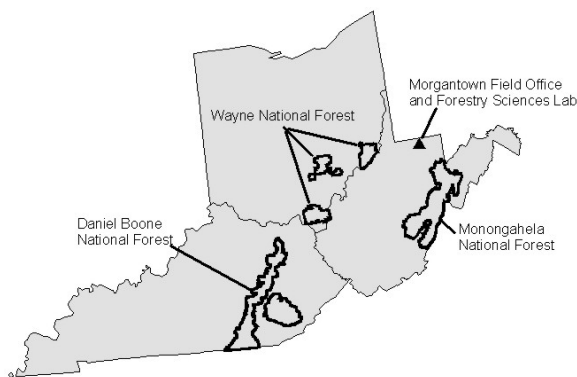


Healthy Forest Restoration Act Projects Title IV-Silvicultural Assessment

Project Title: Research and demonstration areas of silvicultural treatments for minimizing gypsy moth effects.

Significance: Gypsy moth is one of the most destructive and costly insects introduced into eastern U.S. forests but its biology and ecology provide opportunities to manage the health of forest stands to minimize its effects.

Approach: Previously, research and demonstration areas for gypsy moth silvicultural treatments have been established in the George Washington-Jefferson National Forest and on private land in West Virginia. As gypsy moth continues to spread, it currently or within the next few years will be impacting the Monongahela National Forest in WV and the Wayne National Forest in OH.



The establishment of new research and demonstration areas on 489 acres in these forests via administrative studies will provide replication of treatments across a broader area for research objectives of evaluating the treatments and opportunities for public education. Stands appropriate for different silvicultural prescriptions and ahead of gypsy moth infestation within these national forests will be selected within an opportunity area, treatments will be installed utilizing categorical exclusions, and measurements taken on the effectiveness of the

treatments. Signs and brochures will be developed for the demonstration aspects of the areas. The project is in the early stages of development and is a joint effort between the Northeastern Research Station, Northeastern Area Forest Health Protection, and the Monongahela and Wayne, National Forests.

Outcome(s): The outcomes will be: a) increased geographic validation of silvicultural treatments to minimize gypsy moth effects, b) training of national forest personnel in the use of this approach, and c) education of both natural resource professionals and the public through the demonstration areas.

Benefits: Silviculture can be used to reduce the mortality and growth losses and to some extent other resource values on the National Forest land included in the project. The public will be educated on the effectiveness of the treatments and their potential for use on private forest land to minimize economic losses from gypsy moth.

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