



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Agriculture

635 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-2532



April 9, 2007

**TO:** Residents in the Area of McNulty Creek, St. Helens High School, and Hwy 30 in St. Helens, Columbia County, T4N R1W S8

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

**SUBJECT: Asian Gypsy Moth Aerial Spray Notice**

An Asian gypsy moth was found on Firway Lane in St. Helens near 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 larger. AGM feeds on a broader range of host trees including conifers such as larch that are not as favored by European gypsy moths. Other conifers may also be at risk. These factors make AGM a significant exotic threat. **The Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture has approved a proposal to eradicate this infestation before it can spread any further this spring.**

**Facts About the Spray Program:**

The eradication area covers approximately 640 acres in St. Helens, Columbia Co. (see map). Three aerial applications of Btk are planned at about 14 day intervals beginning in late April 2007. Spraying will be done by helicopter, and start approximately one-half hour before sunrise. Only a small amount of Btk (0.5 gallons) will be applied per acre. It is likely that a small buffer area surrounding this eradication area will receive some Btk, but in quantities much less than the eradication area. Spraying should be completed in less than two hours unless delayed by weather or other factors. 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. The tentative treatment schedule is as follows:

**Tentative Spray Schedule:**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Application</b>	<b>April 24</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Application</b>	<b>May 8</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Application</b>	<b>May 22</b>

**This schedule is subject to change depending on weather and operational conditions.**

During the spray project, the following local radio and TV stations will be informed of specific spray dates and any changes in the spray schedule: **KOHI-AM (1600).**

Current spray schedule information can also be obtained by calling 1-800-525-0137.

**Facts About Btk:**

Btk is a naturally occurring bacterium commonly found in soil. Btk is toxic only to susceptible caterpillars of moths and butterflies. Btk has an excellent safety record. It is not toxic to other insects, birds, fish, or mammals including healthy humans, pets and livestock. 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. This is the same insecticide that has been used in gypsy moth eradication programs 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, Lane County, Douglas County, Cave Junction, Jacksonville, Ashland, Lincoln County, and Clackamas County.

The Btk product we propose to use will be Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B. Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B is water-based and formulated for aerial application. Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B is the only Btk formulation with an extensive record of public health studies from similar eradication programs in Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and New Zealand.

B.t.k. will not adversely affect livestock if they are sprayed, come in contact with, or eat treated grass or foliage. The concern is that livestock, particularly horses, may be startled by the noise and presence of a low-flying helicopter, possibly resulting in injury. All precautions will be taken to minimize impacts on livestock during each spray application. We recommend that you take steps to consider the safety of your animals which may include confining your animals in a secure area prior to, and during, each application. Each application should take no more than two hours to complete unless weather or other operational factors intervene. If you have specific concerns about livestock, please contact us ahead of time at one of the numbers below.

### **Environmental Assessment:**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess possible environmental impacts of the proposed program and fulfill federal requirements for cooperative state-federal gypsy moth eradication programs. A copy of the final EA is available under Gypsy Moth at ODA's Plant Division Web site: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/>. To request a copy, please contact the address below:

Kathleen J.R. Johnson  
Oregon Department of Agriculture, Plant Division  
635 Capitol Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301-2532  
phone: 1-800-525-0137; fax: (503) 986-4786; email: [gypsymoth@oda.state.or.us](mailto:gypsymoth@oda.state.or.us)

### **What should I do during the spraying? – Information provided by Oregon Department Human Services (DHS), Public Health Division**

Even though the spray is considered safe for humans, we recommend that people stay indoors during spraying, unless it is essential to be outdoors. This is general advice for the public. If you or someone in your home has a medical problem that they believe may be made worse by the spraying, talk to your health care provider.

To avoid exposure, we recommend:

1. Staying indoors during and for at least 30 minutes after spraying to allow droplets to settle.
2. Waiting until the spray has dried before touching grass or shrubs. Cover playground equipment, sandboxes, benches, and lawn chairs before the spray or hose them off afterward.
3. Washing exposed skin with soap and water if direct contact with the spray droplets occurs. If the material should get into your eyes, flush with water for 15 minutes.

### **What about people with weakened immune systems and people with allergies?**

Although we don't have evidence that Btk will affect any given group of people, individuals with leukemia, AIDS, or any other physician-diagnosed causes of severe immune disorders, may consider leaving the spray area during the actual spraying. If you or someone in your home has one of these conditions, ask your doctor for advice about avoiding exposure before the spray project begins.

The Btk product contains residues of grains and other foods used to help the bacteria grow. If you have serious allergies to foods or food preservatives, your health care provider may consult with Oregon DHS, Public Health Division, 503-731-4025, or the manufacturer of Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B, about the exact ingredients (Valent BioSciences, 847-968-4700, after hours 877-315-9819).

### **Removing Spray Residues:**

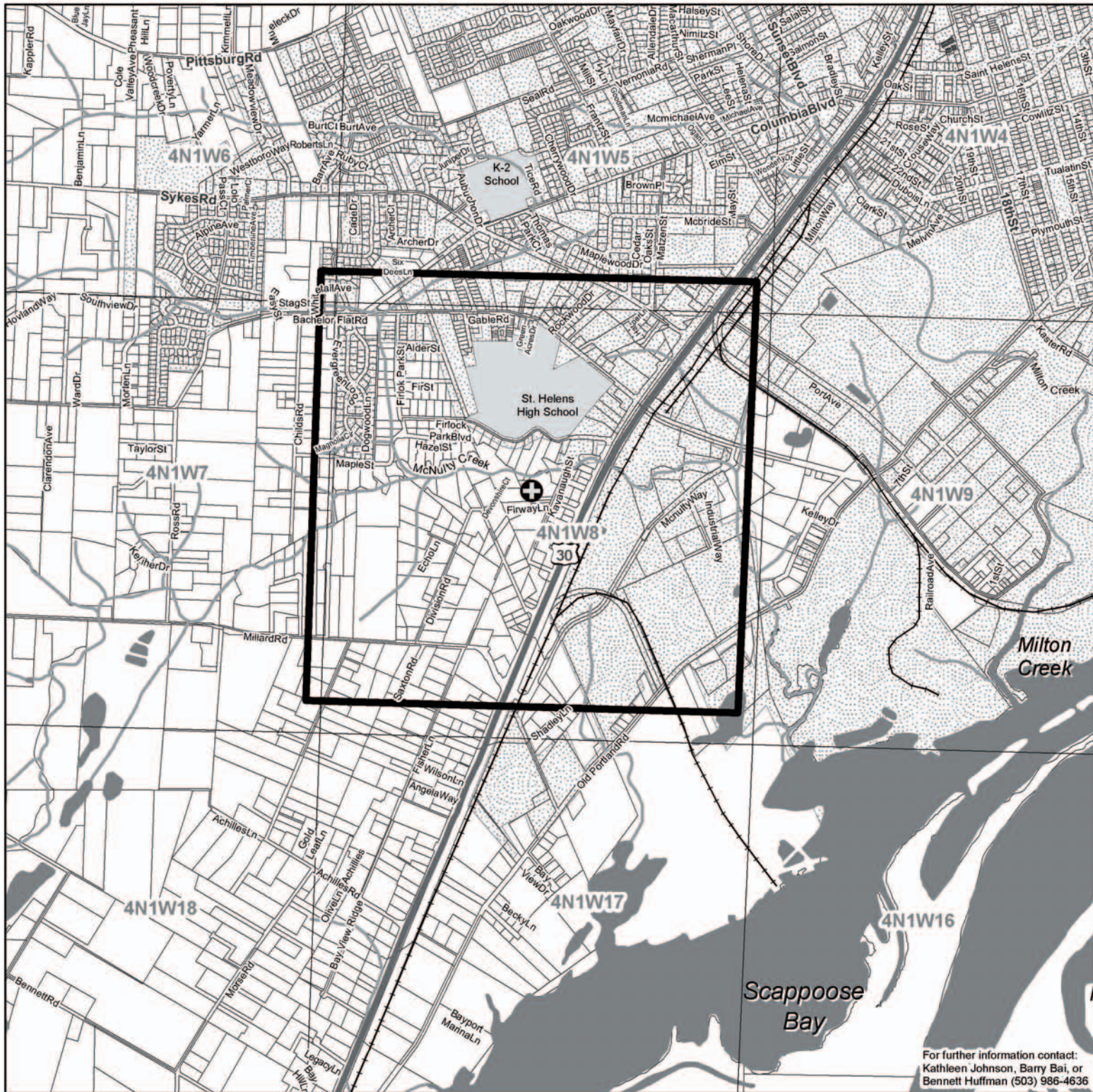
Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B is formulated to stick to leaves when dry. There is nothing in Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B that should cause permanent damage to finishes on cars, buildings, play equipment, or lawn furniture. Spray residue is easiest to remove from any surface before it is completely dry. Once dry, it is important to "re-wet" the droplets by soaking them with water and for cars, a car wash detergent. Allow enough time for this re-wetting to occur. The time required will depend on how long the droplets have been on the surface, whether the surface has been directly in the hot sun, etc. Using a soft cloth or sponge, the droplets will then be easily removed. Repeat this simple process if some droplets remain. This process has proven very effective and has been used by property owners in many areas where Foray<sup>®</sup> 48B has been applied.



# 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.



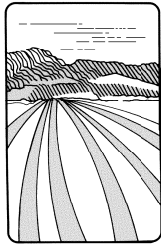
For further information contact:  
Kathleen Johnson, Barry Bai, or  
Bennett Huffman (503) 986-4636

Data Source(s): Oregon Geospatial Data Clearinghouse, ESRI Street-Map USA, Columbia County, Pacific Northwest Hydrography Framework  
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Department  
of Agriculture  
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## Asian Gypsy Moth Aerial Spray Program Notice

### For Further Information:

- If you have been exposed to Btk and have concerns or questions about possible health effects, wash the affected area and contact the Oregon Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.
- The Btk product contains residues of grains and other foods used to help the bacteria grow. If you have serious allergies to food or food preservatives, your health care provider may consult with Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Public Health Division, 503-731-4025, or the manufacturer, Valent BioSciences, 847-968-4700 (after hours 877-315-9819) regarding the ingredients of Foray® 48B. Questions and answers concerning gypsy moth spraying and your health can be found at the DHS Web site:  
<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/pesticide/btkfacts.shtml>
- For more information about Btk, contact the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), based at Oregon State University at 1-800-858-7378, or visit their Web site at:  
<http://npic.orst.edu>. A pesticide fact sheet for Btk can be found on their Web site at:  
<http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/BTgen.pdf>
- For more information on spray times, dates, locations, gypsy moth, Btk (including studies on Btk and human health) or post-treatment trapping programs, visit the ODA Plant Division Web site <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/> or call the Oregon Department of Agriculture at 1-800-525-0137 or 503-986-4636, or by email: [gypsymoth@oda.state.or.us](mailto:gypsymoth@oda.state.or.us)