
Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: A Cooperative Approach
SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 1

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Introduction: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is our basic national charter for protecting the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals, and provides means of carrying out the policy. NEPA requires that an environmental analysis of proposed actions be conducted, as a matter of policy, before decisions are made or actions are taken. As a means for carrying out policy, NEPA provides opportunity for full public participation by the public in the decision making process.

Depending upon scope, the environmental analysis is usually recorded in a document called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Based upon information contained in an EIS, a decision is made and recorded in a document called the “Record of Decision” (ROD). The ROD is only signed after the decision-maker(s) is/are satisfied that the NEPA process has been followed and that the environmental analysis is complete.

In 1996, the USDA Forest Service and the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) signed a joint ROD for a Final Environmental Impact Statement titled “Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: A Cooperative Approach.” This 1996 ROD and FEIS, are the parent documents that have been underlying and guiding the USDA’s national gypsy moth management strategy since 1996.

Situation: The parent FEIS needs to be updated with new technical information and new lessons that have been learned since 1996. The update will be a Supplement to the parent EIS. The alternative adopted in the 1996 ROD (Alternative 6) will still be the pertinent alternative for this Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and



will continue to be the adopted alternative for this SEIS. Alternative 6 includes three gypsy moth management strategies: suppression, eradication, and slow-the- spread.

Action Taken: The Director of the Northeastern Area has been delegated the responsibility to work with the interested members of the public, and with Federal, State and local cooperators to develop this supplement to the parent EIS.

Goal: The main goal is to assemble an interdisciplinary team to prepare this supplemental EIS in a timely manner and in accordance with NEPA.

Timeline:

<i>FY 2004</i>	<i>FY 2005</i>	<i>FY2006</i>
? Form EIS Core Team	? Continue updates	? Final SEIS
? Meet with cooperators, Regional Staffs, States etc.	? Draft SEIS	? ROD
? Publish Notice of Intent		
? Develop Mailing Lists		
? Update all chapters of Parent EIS		

? Current SEIS Core Team members include: co-team leaders Joe Cook, Forest Service, and Weyman P. Fussell, APHIS. Other team members will be added as the project progresses.

? The Core Team will be located in Morgantown, WV, to facilitate this process and write the SEIS.

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