

Dear Stakeholder,

We wish to update you on progress of the Gypsy Moth Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). USDA began working on the SEIS with a Federal Register (FR) Notice of April 29, 2004, “Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: a Cooperative Approach.” A revised NOI was published on March 13, 2006, revising the dates for filing the Draft and Final SEIS. Three issues were identified from public outreach: (1) Human Health, (2) Environmental Quality, and (3) Non-target Organisms.

The SEIS that we are currently developing will present two new alternatives to the current program (February 15, 1996, Record of Decision, 61 FR 5976), while protecting the forests and trees of the United States from the adverse effects of the gypsy moth. One alternative would add a new treatment option of using tebufenozide (not available in 1995). Another alternative would add tebufenozide and use a risk-based process for adding new treatments that may become available in the future. The SEIS will disclose the effects of the alternatives and update the 1995 EIS (60 FR 61698).

Developing the SEIS and the associated Human Health and Environmental Risk Assessments for each of the treatments and the gypsy moth is a long process. Completion of the Draft SEIS is expected in the spring of 2007. Check the Web site www.na.fs.fed.us/wv/eis/ for more information and future updates on the status of the SEIS.

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