

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
CARSON, DOUGLAS, LYON, MINERAL AND STOREY COUNTIES
2017 APHIS RANGELAND GRASSHOPPER/
MORMON CRICKET SUPPRESSION PROGRAM
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO: NV-03-17

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes alternatives for suppressing grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks on rangeland in Carson, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral and Storey counties, Nevada. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available for review at USDA, APHIS, PPQ, 8775 Technology Way, Reno, NV 89521 and APHIS, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737-1228.

The EA includes an analysis of the potential impacts of three alternatives: (1) No Action, (2) Insecticide Applications at Conventional Rates and Complete Area Coverage, and (3) Reduced Agent Area Treatments (RAATs). The alternative methods analyzed included chemical control by malathion, carbaryl and diflubenzuron sprays, carbaryl ground and aerial bait and no action. The environmental impacts of each method and potential mitigation measures are described in the attached Environmental Assessment (EA). The operational procedures and mitigation measures identified in the attached EA would ensure that no significant adverse environmental impacts other than those identified in the APHIS EIS 2002 would occur to the human environment. The alternative selected is the Reduced Agent Area Treatments (RAATs).

Reasons for the finding of no significant impact include:

1. Human Health: Potential exposures to the general public from traditional application rates are infrequent and of low magnitude. These low exposures to the public pose no risk of direct toxicity, carcinogenicity, neurotoxicity, genotoxicity, reproductive toxicity, or developmental toxicity. Program use of carbaryl, malathion and diflubenzuron has occurred routinely in many past programs, and there is a lack of any adverse health effects reported from these projects.
2. Non-targets: APHIS Directive 5640.1 commits APHIS to a policy of monitoring the effects of Federal programs on the environment. Environmental monitoring includes such activities as checking to make sure the insecticides are applied in accordance with the labels, and that sensitive sites and organisms are protected. The environmental monitoring recommended for grasshopper suppression programs involves monitoring sensitive sites such as bodies of water used for human consumption or recreation or which have wildlife value, habitats of endangered and threatened species, habitats of other sensitive wildlife species, edible crops, and any sites for which the public has expressed concern or where humans might congregate (e.g., schools, parks, hospitals).
3. Threatened, endangered or proposed species would not be adversely affected under any alternative. No unstable or limited range wildlife population would be adversely affected.

The Carson, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral and Storey counties' analysis has disclosed the following species of concern in the vicinity of the treatment areas: Bald eagle, Lahontan cutthroat trout, Carson wandering skipper, Tahoe yellow cress, Webber Ivesia, Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Hiko White River springfish, Railroad Valley springfish and Cui-ui. A complete list is attached in Appendix C, Table 1.

The location of these species or their habitat, rate of spray, spray materials to be used and protection and mitigation measures will be discussed with the local land managers prior to commencement of any treatment to ensure that no adverse effects to these species or their habitat from the treatment project occur. We are also in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and once APHIS receives a concurrence letter from them, we will provide an addendum to this EA, should there be any changes.

4. Socioeconomic issues have been considered and are addressed in the body of the EA. It is determined that grasshopper treatment would not adversely affect socioeconomic issues.
5. Cultural resources and events have been considered and are addressed in the body of the EA. It is determined that grasshopper treatment would not adversely affect cultural resources and events.
6. Executive Orders – 12898 (low income and minorities), 13045 (children), and 13186 (migratory birds).

The time between the receipt of a request for treatment and the start of a suppression program is very short. In order to inform the public and give them time to submit comments on the proposed program, APHIS is making this EA available at this time. Once a treatment request is received and it has been determined that a suppression program will take place, APHIS will extensively examine the treatment site to determine if environmental issues exist that were not covered in the EA. If changes need to be made to the EA or FONSI, APHIS will prepare an addendum to the EA describing the changes and/or additional site-specific issues that were not covered in the EA. This addendum will be provided to all parties that commented on the EA.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the EA, the implementation of the treatment guidelines (containing the operational procedures) and the protection measures for endangered and threatened species, I have determined that the proposed suppression program will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

06/01/2017

Date

Alana Wild
State Plant Health Director NV/UT