

Slowing the Spread of Gypsy Moth

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Description: Gypsy moth, a nonnative invasive species, introduced into the U.S. 130 years ago, is established in about one-third of the potentially susceptible habitat in the U.S. The Gypsy Moth STS pilot project demonstrated that the rate of spread of the gypsy moth could be significantly reduced using environmentally sensitive treatments. The benefits of reducing the rate of spread of gypsy moth exceed the costs of treatment and monitoring by a ratio greater than 3 to 1. Since FY 2000 STS has been fully funded by Congress as one of three strategies that comprise the USDA national gypsy moth management program.

Key Issues:

- Nine states--Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin—are part of STS. In the near future Iowa, Minnesota, and Tennessee will become active participants as gypsy moth slowly moves into those states.
- Improvements in mating disruption technology enhance the environmental viability of STS.
- Novel management structure unifies the partners, increases accountability and promotes action based on biological need rather than availability of matching funds.
- To meet rising costs and the gradual expansion of the project area, and to maintain program effectiveness an additional \$2 million was added to the program budget in FY 2003 for a total \$12.5 million STS program.

Accomplishments:

- The rate of spread of gypsy moth has been reduced by more than 50 percent.
- Approximately 50 million acres from Wisconsin to North Carolina were comprehensively managed during 2003; an additional 30 million acres were monitored less intensively to measure the program's effect on gypsy moth spread.
- More than 80,000 pheromone traps were deployed in 2003 to evaluate past treatment efficacy and to detect or delineate newly established colonies that may require treatment in 2004.
- About 100 distinct gypsy moth colonies totaling 643,000 acres were treated during the spring and summer of 2003. Gypsy moth specific tactics were used on 87% of these acres.
- All treatments in 2003 were accomplished using a multi-year (2003-2005) Forest Service contract, which is cost effective and promotes treatment effectiveness.

Budget History:

Gypsy Moth - Slow the Spread				
<i>(\$ Thousands)</i>				
	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Total	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000

Future Direction:

- Continue to manage program implementation through the STS Foundation.
- Maintain stable and sufficient funding levels to fully implement STS.
- Continue a strong Forest Service technical role in the STS program.

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