FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon cricket Suppression Program
Environmental Assessment in Western South Dakota
EA Number SD-15-1

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 western South Dakota. The EA, incorporated by reference in this document, is available from 314 S. Henry, Suite 200, Pierre, SD.

The EA includes an analysis of the potential impacts of three alternatives. They included (1) No Action, (2) Insecticide Applications at Conventional Rates and Complete Area Coverage, (3) Reduced Agent Area Treatments (RAATs). All of these alternatives are available as components of integrated pest management. The operational procedures and mitigation measures identified in the EA would ensure that are no significant adverse environmental impacts other than those identified in the EIS.

APHIS has determined that the any suppression program, conducted in accordance with the Guidelines for Treatment of Rangeland Grasshoppers and Mormon Crickets (treatment guidelines), which contains the operational procedures, will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

The finding of no significant impacts was determined on the following:

1. Human Health: APHIS adheres to the specific requirements of the pesticide label and the 2010 Operational Guidelines and Operational Procedures. By following the requirements outlined in these documents both the general public and workers will be protected from any adverse effects to human health. Cholinerase testing will be part of the monitoring program. No human health effects are likely.

2. Nontargets: Chemical label instructions and APHIS Treatment Guidelines and Operational Procedures will be strictly followed. This will mitigate any adverse effects on nontargets. identifiable beekeepers will be given notice of any potential treatment in areas that contain colonies of domestic bees. Beekeepers will be instructed to move bees at least two miles outside of potential treatment areas. APHIS will conduct environmental monitoring in areas where buffers are implemented. No adverse effects are likely for nontargets.

3. Endangered and threatened species: The protection measures that resulted from the Section 7 consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Services will be implemented and strictly followed. Therefore, the proposed suppression program is not likely to adversely affect endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

4. Socioeconomic issues: The potential suppression efforts would likely have beneficial economic impacts to local landowners and lessees. The forage not utilized by grasshoppers will allow for greater livestock grazing, decreased needs for supplemental feed and increased monetary returns.

5. Cultural resources and events: APHIS does not anticipate any impact on cultural resources or events. APHIS will consult with Tribal and Bureau of Indian Affairs as well as the state Historical Society for possible cultural impacts of proposed suppression efforts.

6. Executive Orders 12898 (low income and minorities), 13045 (children) and 13186 (migratory birds): No adverse effects are anticipated on low income or minority populations or children because possible suppression treatments will be conducted primarily on open rangeland where human activity is unlikely. APHIS routinely conducts programs in a manner that minimizes the impact on the environment, including any impact on 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 prepare a supplemental determination to re-examine potential program effects on the quality of the human environment. The supplemental determination will be provided to all parties that commented on the EA during the 30-day comment period which ended May 8, 2015. However, no comments were received.

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.

Amy Mesman
Acting State Plant Health Director

May 8, 2015
Date