

NATIONAL PLANT BOARD

August 22, 2007

Honolulu, Hawaii

RESOLUTION No. 4

GYPSY MOTH PROGRAM FUNDING

The gypsy moth remains a highly destructive, exotic forest pest that was accidentally introduced into the United States in 1869. While this pest has been detected in the United States for over 100 years, more than 70% of our susceptible forests, primarily in the southern and Midwestern sectors of the country, have not yet been affected by this pest and remain at risk.

The Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread (GM STS) Foundation, Inc. was established as a model cooperative program to manage this pest. Since the establishment of the GM STS Foundation, the program has been successful in significantly reducing the spread and impact of the gypsy moth. While GM STS Foundation member states have directly benefited from the implementation of this program, other neighboring southern states including Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina also see direct or indirect benefits.

The House and Senate Subcommittees on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies have completed their appropriations reports for the 2008 funding year. For the USDA Forest Service, the House Committee recommended funding forest health management at the 2007 enacted level. In addition, they recommended the forest health program should continue to stress strategic funding allocations and should continue the slow-the-spread, suppression and eradication efforts for the gypsy moth at or near historic levels, depending on pest activity. The Senate Committee also recommended funding forest health management at or above the 2007 enacted levels; however, the language regarding the importance of gypsy moth programs was omitted from the Senate report. In the absence of specific direction such as that included in the House report, funding for the gypsy moth slow-the-spread, suppression, and eradication efforts will be reduced by approximately 50% when compared to historic levels. This reduction is occurring despite the fact that the northeastern U.S. is experiencing the worst outbreak of gypsy moth since the 1980's.

RESOLVED by the membership of the National Plant Board at its 81st annual meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii on August 22, 2007, that our cooperating partners work directly with the House and Senate Subcommittees on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies to ensure specific language is included in both the House and Senate Subcommittee reports related to the gypsy moth program and full funding be granted for the yearly implementation of the gypsy moth program.

Motion to adopt: Gene Cross, Chair, Resolutions/Policy Committee

Seconded by: Gary Gibson

Distribution:

Mark B. Rey, Undersecretary, USDA, Natural Resources and Environment

Gail Kimbell, Chief, USDA Forest Service

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