



THE CENTRAL PLANT BOARD

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2006 Resolution No. 2 Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread (STS) Foundation

The Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread (STS) program has been a collaborative effort that unites ten states, the USDA Forest Service (FS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) into a highly effective pest management strategy. Since its creation in FY 2000, STS has significantly reduced the spread and impact of gypsy moth, which is one of the single most destructive forest pests ever introduced into the United States. Working cooperatively with the Forest Service, the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin, have developed a novel approach to managing and slowing the advance of Gypsy moth in a band covering nearly 51 million acres. It has been calculated that STS has slowed the spread of gypsy moth by 70% and significantly reduced the impact and environmental damage of the insect in areas under active suppression management.

STS has achieved unprecedented success in its unique partnership of multiple states working with two Federal agencies to form a foundation that makes management decisions based on biological need rather than matching state funds. This success is highly dependent on maintaining adequate funding. Currently, STS receives approximately \$10 million from the USDA with the states providing matching contributions of over \$3 million. Unfortunately, the costs of the program have significantly increased due to several factors including:

1. The addition of 4 million acres when the north shore of Minnesota was added, which includes approximately 150,000 acres for treatment;
2. The addition of Minnesota and a change in the Wisconsin trapping grid, which added almost \$1 million in trapping costs alone;
3. The cost of Btk (one of the treatments utilized in eradication) has doubled in 2 years;
4. Application costs by aerial applicators have increased significantly;
5. Technology development which is now funded internally costs \$350,000 annually;
6. Cost of trap placement in newly added remote forested northern areas is significantly more costly;
7. Higher fuel prices are impacting all aspects of the program especially trap deployment.

In order for states to continue to work effectively and cooperatively with FS and APHIS in managing gypsy moth to protect natural and urban forests, funding from FS and APHIS should, at a minimum, be maintained at current levels for FY07. Any reduction in STS funding by FS has the potential to significantly accelerate the spread and destruction of gypsy moth into states that have prime habitat and environment for this insect such that these states would likely suffer devastating losses.

Resolved: By the Central Plant Board at its 82nd annual meeting in Fargo, North Dakota, on February 9, 2006, request that USDA Forest Service and APHIS maintain full funding for the Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread program in FY07.

Distribution:

Michael Johanns, Secretary, USDA

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