



EASTERN PLANT BOARD

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

The gypsy moth is the single most destructive forest pest ever introduced into the United States. It feeds on over 300 species of plants, and since 1970, has defoliated 75 million acres of forested land. The USDA Forest Service (USFS) has been the driving force behind efforts to protect gypsy moth-infested forests from the destruction caused by this introduced pest through their cost-sharing treatment programs with states battling the gypsy moth. These efforts are now facing a serious reduction in Federal funding, which may result in the elimination of gypsy moth suppression altogether. In FY2006, the USFS received \$13,722,000 for gypsy-moth related USFS activities. For FY2007, the proposed budget offers only \$7 million for these same efforts. Of this amount, \$1 million is proposed for both eradication and suppression work, with the highest priority being given to eradication efforts.

The Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread (STS) program was created in FY 2000 with the goal of reducing the spread of the gypsy moth into uninfested areas. The Program is a collaborative effort between the USFS and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). It currently involves 10 states located along the leading edge of gypsy moth populations. The states are: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The STS Program has achieved unprecedented success in accomplishing its goal by reducing the spread of the gypsy moth more than 70% from the historical level of 13 miles per year to just three miles per year. In just six years, this program has prevented the environmental and economical impacts that would have occurred on more than 40 million acres of newly-infested land.

The STS Program's success has been highly dependent on the funding it receives from both the USDA and the states involved in the Program. During its six year history the STS Program has maintained an average funding level of approximately \$10 million per year. Of the proposed \$7 million USFS gypsy moth budget for FY 2007, only \$6 million will go towards the STS Program. This is a \$4 million reduction in funding!

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In order to continue efforts to protect our forests from the destruction caused by the gypsy moth, and to enable both the USFS and APHIS to work cooperatively and effectively to minimize the spread of this invasive forest pest, it is vital that gypsy moth-related budgets for these two Federal agencies to be maintained at least at the level they were in FY 2006.

Resolved: By the Eastern Plant Board at its 81st annual meeting in Rehoboth Beach, DE, on April 6, 2006, that the USDA Forest Service be provided with sufficient funding to provide an effective gypsy moth suppression program in FY2007 and that the STS Program receive a minimum of \$10 million through the Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Foundation for FY2007.

Distribution:

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