



SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD
April 9-12, 2006
Savannah, Georgia

RESOLUTION No. 3

REQUEST TO FULLY FUND THE GYPSY MOTH SLOW-THE-SPREAD PROGRAM

Alabama

The Gypsy Moth is a destructive, exotic forest pest that was accidentally introduced into the United States in 1869. It is currently established throughout the northeast and parts of the upper mid-west. This pest feeds on over 300 species of trees, but oaks are most preferred. Since 1970, over 75 million acres have been defoliated. This pest causes extensive tree mortality, reduces property values, adversely affects commerce and causes allergic reactions in sensitive individuals that may come in contact with the caterpillars.

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Since Congress fully funded the Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread (GMSTS) Program in 2000, ten states located along the leading edge of the gypsy moth population, in cooperation with the USDA, Forest Service, have implemented a region-wide strategy to minimize the rate at which the gypsy moth spreads into uninfested areas. This program, administered by the Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Foundation, Inc., has reduced spread of this pest by more than 70% from the historical level of 13 miles per year to only three miles per year. Since its establishment, the program has prevented the impacts of the gypsy moth on more than 40 million newly infested acres.

In the FY 2007 budget, the USDA, Forest Service has proposed major reductions in funding for both the GMSTS Program and gypsy moth suppression program activities. The agency is proposing to refocus its activities in 2007 in order to accrue cost savings which might be utilized for other higher priority pests and invasive species. These refocus efforts are forecast even though nearly 70% of the susceptible hardwood forests in the United States have not been infested by the gypsy moth and remain at risk.

RESOLVED by the membership of the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia on April 12, 2006, that we urge the USDA-Forest Service (FS) and the Office of Management and Budget and Congress to fully restore funding of \$10 million for the full implementation of the Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Program.

Motion to Adopt: Joe Collins
Seconded by: Frank Fulghum

DISTRIBUTION:

Honorable Michael Johanns, Secretary, USDA
Joshua B. Bolten, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Dr. Chuck Lambert, Deputy Under Secretary, USDA
Dr. Robert Mangold, Director, USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection
Jim Hull, President, NASF
Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA-APHIS
Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
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