

APPENDIX A: ISSUES, QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FROM PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Local issues, questions and concerns stated at the public meetings and in subsequent phone calls, letters and emails are included in this appendix.

Between January 9 and January 21, 2014 approximately 13,100 postcard notifications were sent to residents in the proposed treatment sites, and between January 9 and January 15, 2014 approximately 66 letter notifications were sent to public officials informing them of the public meetings. Four public meetings were held for citizens, public officials and interested individuals to attend (Table 1). At each meeting, state officials presented alternatives for gypsy moth management. The discussion included identification and biology of gypsy moth, pest impacts, survey methods, and treatment options. The proposed action and alternatives, including no action, were discussed. There was a total attendance of 31 citizens at the meetings (Table 1).

Legal notices were published in local newspapers informing the public about the upcoming meetings on the proposed treatment sites.

An Indiana Department of Natural Resources New Release was sent out on January 22, 2014 with information on the scheduled public meetings. On February 10, 2014 a news release was sent out with notice of the rescheduled public meeting for Porter County due to weather conditions. Information on the public meetings, proposed treatments and comment period was also posted on the Division website at gypsymoth.IN.gov

After the decision on the proposed treatments is made and if treatments are conducted, residents will be mailed a notification approximately two weeks prior to treatment. DNR News Releases will be sent out to local media and asked to communicate the information to the general public. Phone calls will be made to public officials and other interested individuals. Updates regarding the scheduled day of treatment will continue prior to and through treatments via local media, phone calls, emails and Twitter.

Information gathered from the public and from resource professionals was used to develop issues and concerns related to the project. They are grouped into two categories; 1) issues used to formulate the alternatives, and 2) other issues and concerns.

At each of the public meetings (Table 1), representatives from the Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology presented the proposed gypsy moth project and answered and received questions and comments. The presentation explained:

- the life cycle, feeding habits and hosts of gypsy moth;
- the identification of gypsy moth;
- survey methods;
- gypsy moth impacts and damage to the trees and forest;
- selection of proposed sites;
- selection of the treatment options;

- the timing and application of treatments;
- boundaries of the treatment sites with maps;
- the public comment period and decision process.

Both during and following the presentation, questions and comments were taken, answered and discussed with the people attending the meetings.

All public comments received by the public comment deadlines were considered in the final decision for the proposed treatments (Table 1).

Information gathered from the public and from resource professionals was used to develop issues and concerns related to the project. They are grouped into two categories; 1) issues used to formulate the alternatives, and 2) other issues and concerns.

The questions and comments received during and after the public meetings were categorized into four main issues:

- Human health and safety;
- Nontarget effects and environmental effects;
- Economic and political impacts;
- Likelihood of success of the proposed project, and the treatment options proposed.

ISSUES

Human health and safety

The questions and comments received from the public regarding human health and safety were:

A question was asked if there would be an updated emergency plan for the treatment. It was responded that there was an environmental assessment done every year, including a Work & Safety Plan, and that it will be available on the Division website.

A question was asked if there were any special precautions that individuals need to take during the treatment. It was responded that there were not any special precautions that need to be done.

A question was asked about when the treatment for mating disruption would occur. It was responded that typically the treatment would occur about the second week of June, but that it depended on when egg hatch occurs and weather conditions.

A couple of people who had chronic medical conditions, or who had children with chronic medical conditions expressed concerns about knowing when the treatments would occur and requested to be notified if possible. It was responded that these

individuals would be notified prior to the treatment, and their contact information was obtained.

Nontarget effects and environmental effects

The questions and comments received from the public regarding nontarget effects and environmental effects were:

A question was asked if Btk would affect Honey bees. It was responded that there is no research that indicates Btk negatively affects them.

Questions were asked about the effects of Btk on butterfly caterpillars. It was responded that Btk does not discriminate between gypsy moth caterpillars and caterpillars of other butterfly and moth species – Btk will affect all caterpillar larvae that are out at the time of the treatment. At the time of the treatment, there are a limited number of other caterpillars species present.

A question was asked if the whole 12,000 acres of the Arcola site would be treated. It was responded that the plane will fly over the entire area, but turn off the spray over open areas and while making turns.

Questions were asked if the mating disruption treatment would harm things other than gypsy moth. It was responded that, it does not harm other things and that the treatment uses the same pheromone that is in the bait in the traps.

Economic and political impacts

A question was asked if a homeowner found gypsy moth if DNR would want to be notified. It was responded, yes.

A question was asked if there was a penalty for people who move into Indiana from another state and bring gypsy moth with them. It was responded that normally there is not a penalty.

A question was asked about what it means if a county is quarantined. It was responded that it informs the public and businesses if the county is infested with gypsy moth. It also informs moving companies that they need to inspect outdoor articles before they are moved out of the county.

A person living near the Arcola site and Homestead Road who has oak trees wanted to be covered by the treatment. It was responded that this area would be delimited with traps over the next couple of years to examine the success of the treatment.

A question was asked if there was a check program on cars leaving infested areas. It was responded that there was not any program for that. It was also responded that moving companies will do inspections.

A question was asked with regards to the proposed treatments in Porter County as to how the proposed boundaries for treatment were selected and why some adjacent neighborhoods were not selected. It was responded that areas were selected based on moth catches and their locations and on habitat location.

A positive comment was received in support of the treatment in Porter County.

Likelihood of success of the proposed project and the treatment options proposed

A question was asked if there are any infestations in the northern part of Whitley County. It was responded that, yes there have been infestations in that area for years.

A question was asked if bats eat gypsy moth caterpillars. It was responded that they probably would eat them.

A question was asked if the gypsy moth was a huge problem in Whitley County. It was responded that DNR has treated in the area previously.

A question was asked if gypsy moth moves on to other areas after an area has been treated. It was responded that population levels are cyclical. Populations will go up and down due to natural predators.

Questions were asked about how the cold weather might affect egg masses. It was responded that we hoped it might have some effect.

A question was asked if anyone was encouraging the natural predators to come into the area. It was responded that the predators are allowed to move in naturally.

Questions were asked about homeowner options for controlling caterpillars and if it was worth it for a homeowner to burlap their trees. It was responded that it was useful if they have caterpillars on their trees. It was also responded that the burlap banding or insecticides labeled for caterpillars could be used.

A question was asked if a car wash would take off egg masses from vehicles. It was responded that it might.

Other questions and concerns

A question was asked if the maps could be viewed later. It was responded that the maps were available on the DNR Entomology and Plant Pathology website.

A question was asked about the size of the female moth. It was responded that they are about 2 inches long and that they do not fly.

A question was asked if the female moth is not impregnated, does she still lay eggs. It was responded that she may try to lay eggs but that they would be sterile.

A question was asked about Emerald Ash Borer and whether or not it attacked Blue Ash. It was responded that, yes it does attack Blue Ash.

A question was asked if the website discussed was a DNR website or Purdue website. It was responded that it was a DNR website.

Table 1. Date, time, and attendance of the public meetings for the proposed treatment sites by county. All meeting times are local times.

COUNTY	SITE	DATE	TIME	# Attending
Porter	Valpo 1 Valpo 2 Westville 1	February 5, 2014 (cancelled due to weather conditions)	6:00 pm CST	-----
Porter	Valpo 1 Valpo 2 Westville 1	February 13, 2014	6:00 pm CST	0
Allen/Whitley	Arcola 1	January 29, 2014	3:30 pm EST 6:30 pm EST	13 11
Whitley	Lorane 1	January 30, 2014	6:00 pm EST	7
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