



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Superior
National
Forest

8901 Grand Ave. Place
Duluth, MN 55808-1122
Phone: (218) 626-4300
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File Code: 1920-1-5
Date: March 3, 2008

Dear Interested Party:

Once again the gypsy moth, a non-native invasive insect, threatens forested areas along the North Shore of Lake Superior.

The Superior National Forest (SNF), in a joint effort with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), is proposing treatments that will delay establishment of this invasive insect in Minnesota. These lower intensity treatments, applied now, may avoid harsher treatments in the future which have the potential for more adverse environmental impacts.

The SNF proposes a single application of *Disparlure*, a gypsy moth pheromone, on 7,328 acres located in three separate blocks. This pheromone disrupts the mating process of the gypsy moth.

This proposal is being conducted under the authority of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA). This process provides for your input early in the analysis process and gives me, the Responsible Official, a valuable opportunity to consider your comments and concerns before the decision is made. The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for you to participate in our planning process prior to making a decision.

I am enclosing a document that will provide you with the information on which you can base your comments. This proposal is also available on our website at www.fs.fed.us/r9/superior/projects.

The proposal presented with this letter pertains only to lands administered by the USDA Forest Service, Superior National Forest. Your comments and questions about similar treatments on tribal, state, county or private lands can be addressed by calling the MDA at (651) 201-6684 or (888) 545-6684; or visiting www.mda.state.mn.us/gypsymoth.

Public meetings, to address gypsy moth treatments for all ownerships, are scheduled in March per the following schedule:

Monday, March 10 Grand Portage Casino 6pm-8pm	Tuesday, March 11 Hovland Town Hall 2pm-4pm Cook Cty Court House Grand Marais 6pm-8pm	Wednesday, March 12 Tettegouche State Park 2pm-4pm Silver Bay Recreation Ctr 6pm-8pm
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I ask that your comments be as specific as possible. Comments must be postmarked or received within 30 days of the date the legal notice is published in the Duluth News Tribune (March 4, 2008). The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Comments will be accepted in the following manner:

- Address written comments to: Jim Sanders, Forest Supervisor, ATTN: 2008 Gypsy Moth STS Project, 8901 Grand Avenue Pl., Duluth, MN 55808. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.
- Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to comments-eastern-superior@fs.fed.us Subject: 2008 Gypsy Moth STS Project.
- FAXed comments may be submitted to (218) 626-4398, ATTN: Paul Tidwell, Subject: 2008 Gypsy Moth STS Project.

Regardless of how you submit comments, please insure your name and contact information is clearly stated.

When the Environmental Assessment is completed, a copy will be mailed to those who request it and to those who submitted comments about the project. The pre-decisional process objection period will start at that time.

If you would like more information regarding this project, please contact Paul Tidwell, (218) 626-4385, or e-mail: ptidwell@fs.fed.us. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

/s/ James W. Sanders
JAMES W. SANDERS
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure