

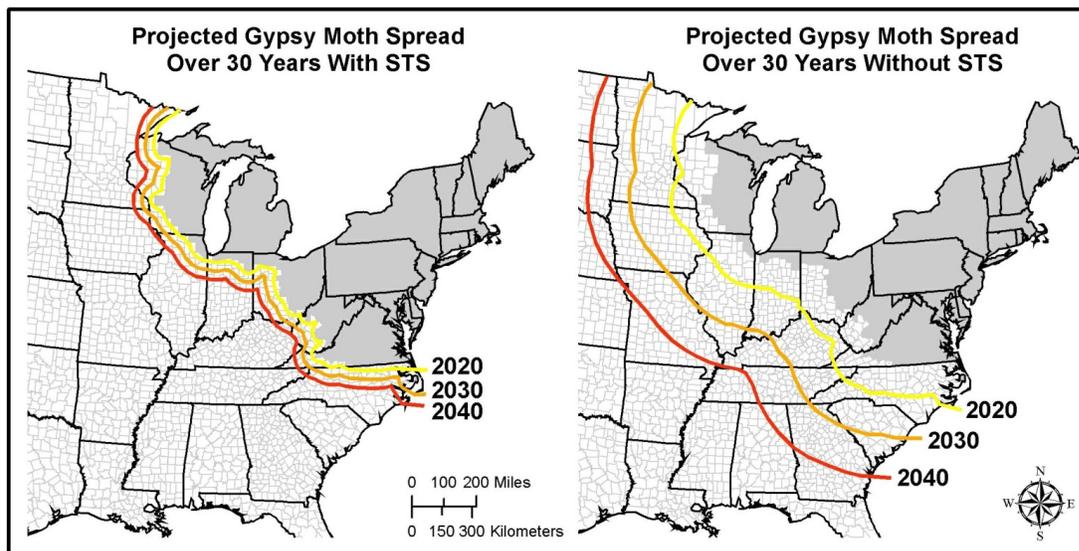
National Gypsy Moth Management Program

Reducing damage and slowing the spread

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



Description: The gypsy moth is a nonnative invasive insect that was introduced into Massachusetts in the late 1860s. It is now established in all or parts of 19 Eastern States and the District of Columbia, or roughly one-third of its potential habitat in the United States. Once gypsy moth infests an area, outbreaks appear from time to time. The gypsy moth caterpillar eats tree leaves, which reduces tree growth and increases dieback, eventually killing the tree. Gypsy moth has defoliated trees on more than 92 million acres since 1924.



At the current rate of success, the gypsy moth Slow the Spread (STS) Program will prevent gypsy moth from spreading to an additional 150 million acres over the next 20 years.

A national environmental impact statement (EIS) guides the response to gypsy moth infestations and outbreaks across a 50-million-acre Slow the Spread project area, which spans a region 1,200 miles long and 65 miles wide across 11 States from Minnesota to North Carolina. Slow the Spread targets small, scattered gypsy moth colonies along the advancing front of the generally infested area.

The EIS outlines three strategies: 1) reduce damage from outbreaks in the generally infested area (*suppression*), 2) eliminate isolated infestations outside the generally infested area (*eradication*), and 3) reduce the moth's spread into uninfested areas (*slow the spread*). The U.S. Forest Service coordinates with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and others to carry out the USDA National Gypsy Moth Management Program.

Key Issues:

- Slow the Spread has reduced the gypsy moth's rate of spread by more than 60 percent, from an average of 13 miles per year to less than 5 miles per year. This reduction has prevented environmental damage and financial losses on more than 110 million acres since 2000. The program is expected to prevent infestation of more than 150 million acres during the next 20 years.
- Early detection and rapid response to isolated outbreaks outside the generally infested area eliminate the need for larger, more costly, and frequent treatments later. By delaying impacts and suppression costs in newly infested areas, Slow the Spread has a benefit-to-cost ratio of more than 3:1.

- Reduced funding in FY 2012 and FY 2013 correlated with an increased rate of gypsy moth spread, a trend that is expected to continue. However, in the short term, we are still achieving the Slow the Spread project objective to reduce the insect’s spread by 60 percent over historical levels.
- Although the largest gypsy moth outbreak in the Mid-Atlantic States since the early 1990s has abated (from 2009 to 2012), gypsy moth populations continue to damage trees in the generally infested area and are causing isolated infestations outside of it as well.

Accomplishments:

- Treated nearly 60,000 acres of Federal, State, and private lands in five States (MD, NY, OH, PA, and WV) to suppress gypsy moth outbreaks. Treated 901 acres to eliminate an isolated infestation in Wisconsin. The newly approved insecticide tebufenozide was used for the first time in the program.
- Treated more than 410,000 acres in the Slow the Spread action area to reduce the insect’s spread. Most lands were treated using a product that disrupts gypsy moth mating.
- Deployed about 50,000 pheromone traps to monitor populations along the leading edge of the Slow the Spread action area.
- Standardized all data collection, planning, and evaluation of actions for the program.
- Began evaluations to help determine the upper limit of gypsy moth populations for which mating disruption is effective.
- Carried out 2013 gypsy moth projects under the newly completed Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the USDA National Gypsy Moth Management Program.

Budget History:

The USDA National Gypsy Moth Management Program has three funding components: suppression, eradication, and Slow the Spread (STS). The Northeastern Area has allocated the suppression and eradication funds shown in the table below to State and Federal partners in the region that it serves. The Washington Office allocates STS funds to the Northeastern Area and U.S. Forest Service Southern Region based on the annual STS plan of work approved by the STS Foundation Board of Directors.

National Gypsy Moth Management Program <i>(Dollars, thousands)</i>				
Projects	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Suppression	\$193	\$38	\$1,004	TBD
Eradication	39	52	24	TBD
Slow the Spread	10,630	8,125	7,875	TBD

Future Direction:

- Continue to monitor and support suppression, eradication, and Slow the Spread treatment needs.
- Promote the Slow the Spread business model as a template for responding to other invasive forest pests such as emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, and others.

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