

Gypsy moth eradication project slated for Five Rivers area of Lincoln County

April 16, 2003...Oregon Department of Agriculture Director Katy Coba has approved a 706-acre gypsy moth eradication project planned for later this month in the Fisher (Five Rivers) area of southeast Lincoln County. The project will involve three aerial applications of the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (B.t.k.), which has been used routinely in other gypsy moth eradication projects in Oregon since 1984.

The project follows the detection of three gypsy moths in the area last summer. In addition, egg masses and other life stages were located, indicating that a breeding population of gypsy moths exists in the area.

The first of three applications is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, subject to weather conditions. The second and third applications will follow at approximately seven to 14 day intervals-- again, weather permitting-- and will be completed by mid May. Spray notices are being sent to each postal patron in the affected areas.

Upon completion of the spraying, ODA will begin its annual detection program by placing gypsy moth traps throughout the state, with a higher density of trapping in the eradication area to determine the effectiveness of the spray effort.

The gypsy moth is not native to Oregon and is considered a serious pest of trees and shrubs. Early detection and eradication of gypsy moth infestations are goals of ODA to prevent economic and environmental losses to Oregon by loss of foliage and even trees, restrictive quarantines on commodities, or loss of favorable fish habitat due to degraded watersheds.

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