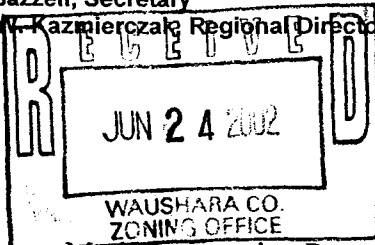


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DNR Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Summary

Gypsy moth is not native to Wisconsin but has become established in eastern counties of the State. Where this pest is established, it goes through periodic outbreaks in which the population of gypsy moth explodes and forests can be stripped of leaves in late June. Heavy defoliation can kill some trees and leave surviving trees vulnerable to attack by other insects and diseases. When outbreaks occur, the public typically becomes concerned and looks for ways to reduce gypsy moth populations to tolerable levels. Treatments to kill large numbers of the pest can be expensive, at times damaging to native insects and other animals, or even dangerous to the landowner when pesticides are not properly applied.

The suppression program organized by the Department of Natural Resources will provide the public with a safe, effective, and affordable means to treat gypsy moth outbreaks. The suppression program will be comprised of an aerial insecticide treatment program (administered in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection) and administration of partial federal reimbursement (cost sharing) for program participants.

The suppression program is voluntary, and will be offered to landowners and municipal governments through their counties. Participating counties will provide a coordinator who will serve as the contact for the public and the DNR. The information provided below summarizes the tasks that will be performed by the participating counties, characteristics of eligible treatment blocks, and cost sharing rules under the program.

COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES. In order to participate, a county will designate a local coordinator to administer requests for treatment from all residents of the county. The local coordinator may be a county employee, municipal employee, consulting forester, or volunteer, but must service the entire county. The mechanism of conducting the program is flexible, and the program may be structured so that the county need not incur significant expenses. The county coordinator may conduct all program responsibilities, or, for example, city foresters and/or consulting foresters may undertake most program responsibilities within a portion of the county, with the county coordinator submitting all completed applications to the DNR. DNR will train and guide local coordinators and other personnel in designing treatment blocks and preparing treatment applications. Local responsibilities will primarily consist of the following:

1. Respond to treatment requests from county residents.
2. Determine if areas within a county are eligible for treatment.
3. Identify and map proposed treatment blocks.
4. Complete and file treatment applications with the DNR by December 1 of the year preceding treatment.

5. Collect the estimated total cost of treatment from landowners, cities, etc. This includes most costs expended by the county in association with the program, such as funding a local coordinator position or hiring a consulting forester to serve as coordinator.
6. Conduct public meetings in September, October or November to inform county residents of the gypsy moth suppression program.
7. Notify residents within eligible treatment blocks and adjacent areas by mail, class one legal notice in a local newspaper, press release and public meeting.
8. Resolve landowner objections to treatment, and accommodate objecting residents within a proposed spray block by modifying or eliminating that block.
9. Attend training as a ground observer of the Wisconsin aerial spray program and assist as an observer during spray block treatments.
10. Perform a post-treatment evaluation described in the grant agreement.
11. Submit requests for reimbursement of eligible administrative costs.
12. Maintain program records and prepare an annual report to be filed with the DNR.

ELIGIBLE TREATMENT BLOCKS. To be eligible for cost sharing, a treatment block must meet the following criteria:

1. Be of at least 40 contiguous acres in a compact and regular shape, or be of at least 20 acres of publicly owned land surrounded by ineligible land.
2. Have canopy coverage of either:
 - 25% or more on residential or high use public recreational land.
 - 50% or more on rural land.
3. 50% or more of the canopy must be of the insect's preferred hosts listed in the grant application.
4. Have the following minimum average number of egg masses per acre as estimated by survey methods described in the application materials:
 - 500 egg masses per acre on residential or high use, public recreational land.
 - 1000 egg masses per acre on rural land.

COST SHARING. Expenses directly relevant to the suppression program will be cost shared at the following rates, based on the amount of funding received from the US Forest Service:

1. Privately owned lands under 500 acres per owner may be cost shared up to 50%.
2. Private lands of over 500 acres per owner may be cost shared at up to 33%.
3. Publicly owned lands may be cost shared at up to 25%.

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