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Plant Industry Division

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Plant Pest Administrator

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Seed Administrator

Danny A. Turner
Fertilizer Administrator

December 15, 2011

Ms. Teresa Matthews
North Carolina State Clearinghouse
Department of Administration
1301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1301

Dear Ms. Matthews:

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USDA-FS), the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Pest Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), and the Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread Foundation, Inc.(GMSTS) is considering courses of action in response to gypsy moth infestations in North Carolina. We would like to solicit public comment on the proposals discussed below in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Please include these proposals in your next edition of the Clearinghouse Bulletin.

The NCDA&CS conducts a joint intervention program with USDA-APHIS-PPQ when the infested site is less than 640 acres, and with USDA-FS when the infested area is greater than 640 acres. However, there is one ongoing cooperative federal/state project in North Carolina that can alter this typical relationship. This program involves the GMSTS Foundation, Inc. and functions in northern North Carolina. Any projects conducted in this area are carried out jointly by NCDA&CS and the GMSTS Foundation regardless of size. All GMSTS Foundation, Inc. work is funded through the USDA-FS.

One site has been identified where some form of intervention is currently being recommended by the NCDA&CS for implementation during the spring of 2012. The proposed intervention tactic involves a single application of Mating Disruption. Delimit trapping will also be conducted the following year as part of an overall strategy of pest management.

The proposed treatment site is located within the Slow the Spread Project Area. The Slow the Spread Pilot Project was begun in 1992 with a goal of demonstrating that the rate at which gypsy moth populations colonize new areas can be reduced. The project uses techniques that are both environmentally safe and cost effective. This pilot program became operational in 2000. Management decisions within STS are primarily based on the presence of male gypsy moths in any given area. The presence and density of gypsy moths is determined by utilizing traps baited with the female gypsy moth sex pheromone. The Project currently operates in portions of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, North Carolina, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Fertilizer Section (919) 733-3933 · Plant Protection Section · (919) 733-6930 · Seed Section (919) 733-3930

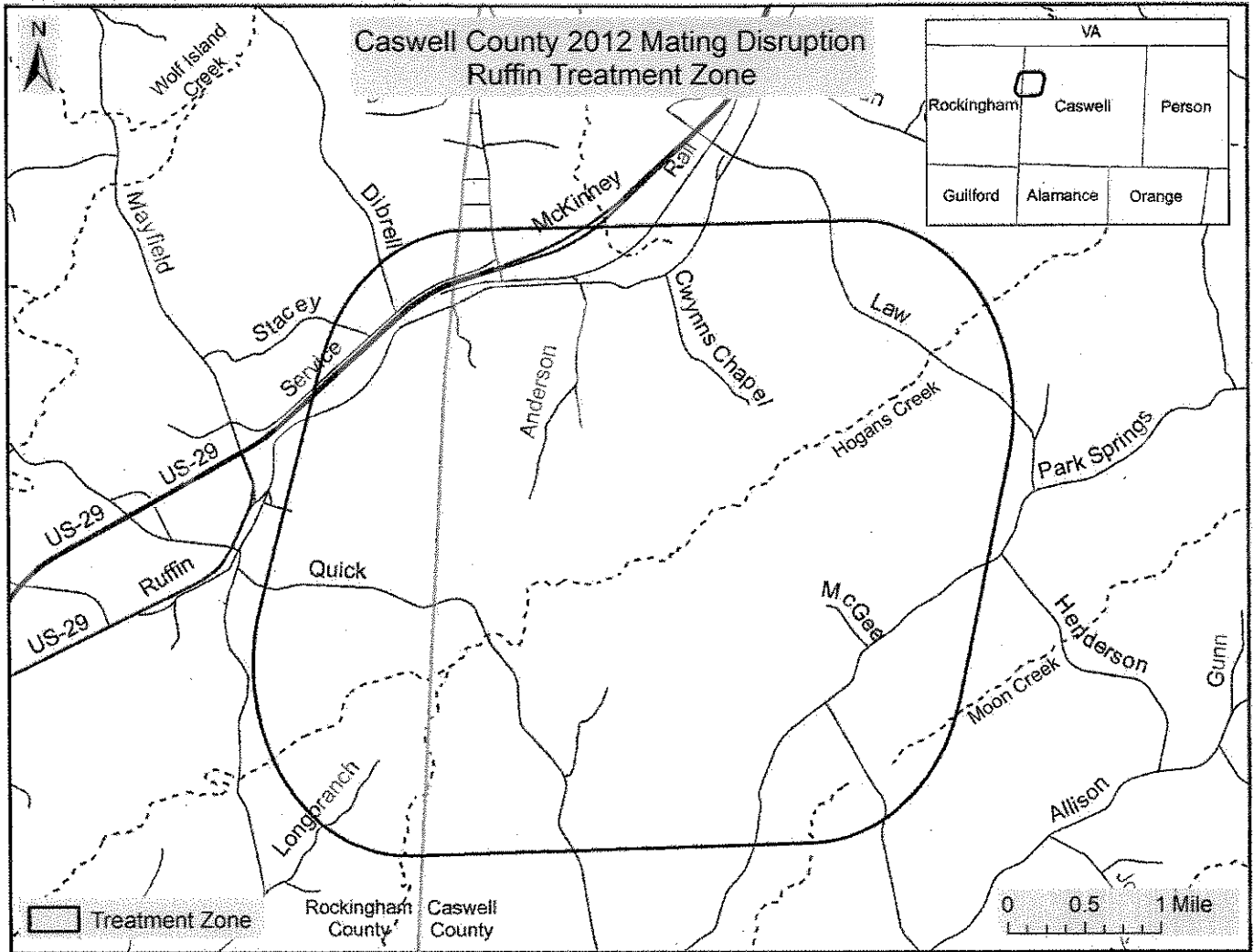
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Ruffin: This proposed treatment block in Caswell and Rockingham Counties is in a remote, sparsely populated area several miles east of Ruffin, NC. Approximately 29 houses and rental properties are located in this block. The landscape topography is rolling and the block is primarily rural, dominated by large expanses of uninhabited woodlands. Many different tree species are present, including oak, hickory, pine, birch, sycamore, cedar, willow, and many others. Hogans Creek runs through the center of this block, with a few tributaries and ponds as well. There are no aerial obstructions present in or adjacent to this block. This block is proposed to receive one application of Mating Disruption.



This document, and additional program information, may be found at the following website, under 2012 Scoping: www.ncagr.gov/gyps moth/

Questions and comments may be addressed to Matt Andresen, Research Operations Manager, North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Plant Industry Division, Plant Protection Section, 1060 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1060; phone 919/733-6931 ext.247; fax 919/733-1041; E-mail: matthew.andresen@ncagr.gov

Sincerely,

Matt Andresen

Matt Andresen
Research Operations Manager

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