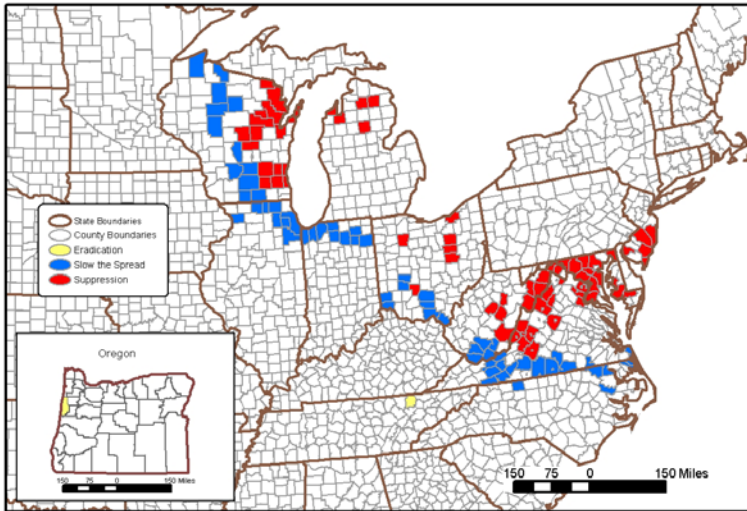


Cooperative Gypsy Moth Suppression Program - 2003

A downward gypsy moth population trend resulted in a reduction in the number of acres treated in 2003 (102,682) when compared to 2002 (286,167). Forest spraying to protect foliage and reduce gypsy moth populations took place during the spring of 2003 in 7 states and on 16 Federal sites (see the suppression map and table of treated states and sites below).

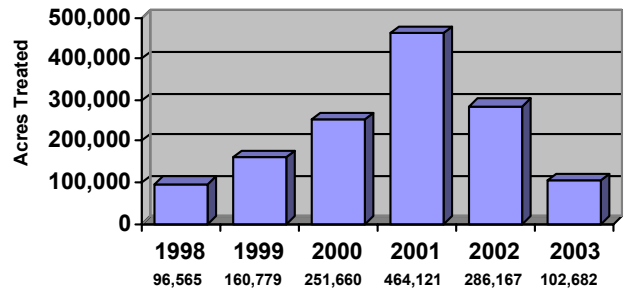


The USDA Forest Service cooperates with State and Federal agencies to fund gypsy moth treatments. In 2003, the Forest Service contributed \$2,417,233, matched with \$2,736,213 in State funds, in its 50/50 cost-share program with State agencies. The Forest Service is responsible for all treatment costs on Federal lands, which totaled \$370,740 for insecticide and its aerial application in 2003.

In 2003, eight different private agricultural spraying companies were contracted to conduct the treatments. Treatment costs per acre varied depending on the type of aircraft and location of the treatment areas; costs per acre ranged from \$6.10 to \$22.48 for fixed-wing aircraft and from \$14.87 to \$33.30 for rotor-wing aircraft. The biological insecticide (Btk) was used on 66 percent of the acreage, the insect growth regulator insecticide (Dimilin) was used on 24 percent, and the gypsy moth virus formulation (Gypchek) was used on the remaining acreage.

The gypsy moth program has two main objectives: 1) foliage protection, and 2) population reduction so that treatment is not required the following year.

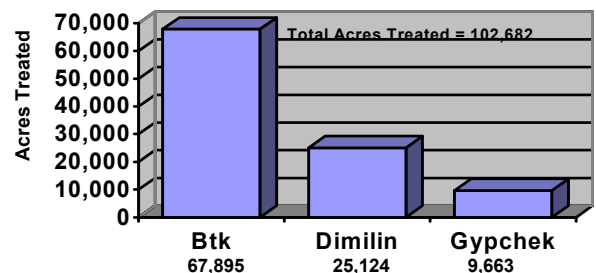
Gypsy Moth Suppression



Treated Sites - 2003

States	National Forest	Other Federal
Maryland		U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; U.S. Dept. of Interior; U.S. Fish and Wildlife; NASA; Secret Service Lands
Michigan		
New Jersey		
Ohio		
Virginia	George Washington; Jefferson	
West Virginia	Monongahela	
Wisconsin		

Acreage by Treatment

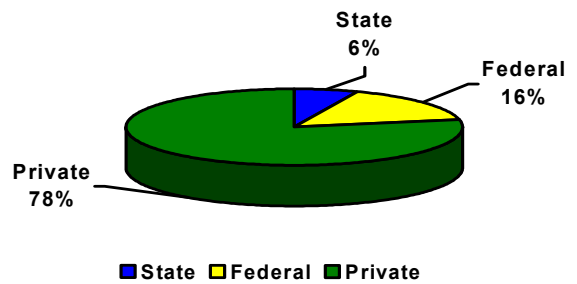


Based on post-treatment evaluations of all treated acreage, defoliation was prevented on 99 percent of the area with a 99 percent success rate based on population reduction. Sixty-three percent of all areas treated within State projects were privately owned and landowner participation is voluntary (see pie chart on the right). In some states, landowners must pay a portion of the treatment costs.

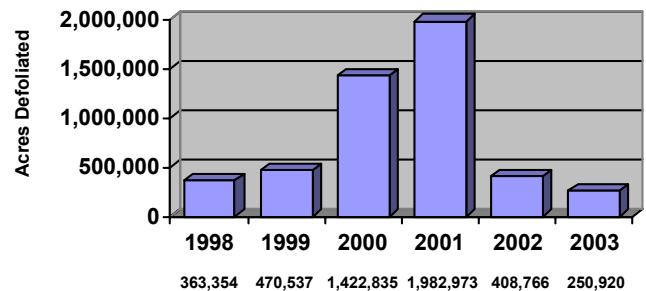
Some areas not treated in 2003 in Michigan and Wisconsin continues to see increases in gypsy moth populations. Michigan's defoliation increased from 0 acres in 2002 to 46,793 acres in 2003. The defoliation in Wisconsin increased 66 percent from 34,094 acres reported in 2002 to over 98,000 acres in 2003. Defoliation also increased in the untreated areas in Virginia and Ohio, but survey results show that gypsy moth populations collapsed in these areas due to the presence of the gypsy moth fungus. For the remainder of the northeast, the same holds true with population collapse due to natural factors.

Adequate moisture and cool temperatures is the key for the success of the gypsy moth fungus. The relationship of the fungus to moisture and temperature levels are exhibited in the recent above average rainfall and below average temperatures that occurred throughout the northeastern U.S. during the spring and summer of 2003. Historical weather data show that Michigan and Wisconsin received approximately 25 percent below average precipitation in 2003, which may have attributed to the increase in gypsy moth populations.

Percentage of Acres Treated by Ownership



Gypsy Moth Defoliation



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