



United States
Department of
Agriculture

May 17, 2010

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Angela Somma, Chief
Endangered Species Division
Office of Protected Resources
1315 East West Highway
SSMC III
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Policy and Program
Development

Environmental and
Risk Analysis
Services, Unit 149
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD
20737

Dear Ms. Somma:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to suppress certain grasshopper species and Mormon cricket populations on rangeland in 17 western states, including the eastern portions of Washington and Oregon, as well as northeastern California, and throughout the State of Idaho. Section 417 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. § 7717) authorizes APHIS' to conduct suppression activities to minimize the economic impacts of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets on rangeland when certain economic and environmental conditions are met. Suppression of grasshopper and Mormon cricket populations is achieved by making a single application by ground or air using one of three insecticides, including carbaryl, diflubenzuron, or malathion.

APHIS has reviewed the potential area of activity for the Program within the range of the 28 evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) for salmon, and has determined that 20 of those ESUs do not co-occur with Program activities and therefore will not be affected by suppression treatments (attachment 1). APHIS is requesting concurrence that the Program may affect but is not likely to adversely affect ESUs for the Sacramento River winter, Upper Columbia River spring, Snake River spring/summer and fall Chinook runs; Snake River sockeye; and Upper Columbia, Snake River Basin, or Middle Columbia steelhead. APHIS made these conclusions based on the implementation of several measures, such as restrictions on maximum application rates, application buffers, and wind speed/direction applications, and other provisions that result in impacts considered insignificant and discountable as described in the attached biological assessment (attachment 2).

Should you have any questions regarding this informal consultation, please feel free to contact Jim Warren at (202) 316-3216 or at jim.e.warren@aphis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Seeley, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental and Risk Analysis Services

Attachments (2)



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Attachment 1:

ESUs designated as a no-effect determination related to activities from the Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program.

Species	Location
Sockeye Salmon (<i>Oncorrynchus nerka</i>)	Ozette Lake
Coho Salmon (<i>Oncorrynchus kisutch</i>)	Central California Coastal South Oregon/N. California Lower Columbia River Oregon Coast
Chinook Salmon (<i>Oncorrynchus tshawytscha</i>)	Puget Sound Upper Willamette Lower Columbia River California Coastal Central Valley Spring Run
Chum Salmon (<i>Oncorrynchus keta</i>)	Hood Canal Summer Run Columbia River
Steelhead (<i>Oncorrynchus mykiss</i>)	Southern California Central Coastal California South Central California Coast Lower Columbia River California Central Valley Upper Willamette River Northern California Puget Sound