

Section I: Invasive and Emerging Pests

RECENT DETECTIONS OF THE ASIAN GYSPY MOTH

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Each year, port inspections and trapping surveys are conducted by agencies as part of a safeguarding effort to prevent the establishment of gypsy moth (GM) in the Pacific Northwest. In 2015, over 15,000 GM delta traps were deployed in Oregon by Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, APHIS-PPQ, Oregon Dept. of Forestry and USFS-FHP. A total of 14 gypsy moths were detected in the state in 2015 from four counties in Oregon. Seven moths were collected in traps from Grants Pass (Josephine County) as part of a third year of delimitation trapping. Positive results were also reported from Forest Grove, Portland and West Linn.

Molecular characterization was performed by on all adult moths collected (USDA-CPHST, Otis Laboratory, Buzzards Bay, MA). Analysis of CO1 coding sequence and nuclear DNA (FS1 site) indicated that while most moths were from a North American origin, two of the moths were of Asian origin. These two moths, and an additional Asian gypsy moth from Vancouver, WA were collected from an area in north Portland near marine port pathways.

The detection of three AGM in the Portland/Vancouver region represents an unprecedented threat. In response, a multiagency multistate effort is currently underway, in consultation with the science technical working group, to eradicate any infestations of AGM in the states of Oregon and Washington.

