

Analysis
Department of Agriculture
Asian Gypsy Moth Infestation

Analyst: Paul Siebert

Request: Appropriate \$539,338 General Fund and increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$1.7 million for eradication of an Asian Gypsy Moth infestation in northwest Portland.

Recommendation: Approve the request and include the amounts in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2016 session.

Analysis: The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is requesting an increase of \$1.7 million Federal Funds expenditure limitation and \$539,338 General Fund as state match for eradication efforts related to the Asian Gypsy Moth, which was found in northwest Portland. The majority of the eradication project would occur during May and June of this year. On January 14, 2016 the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) notified ODA that \$1.7 million in federal funding would be made available for the project. The estimated eradication cost for 2016 is \$2,239,338. In the past USDA has provided only 50% of eradication funding.

ODA conducts Asian Gypsy Moth surveys each year by placing 14,000 - 18,000 traps statewide to detect any new introductions of this invasive pest. Since 1981 ODA has conducted several gypsy moth eradication projects. ODA reports that early detection and rapid response are cornerstones of an effective invasive species control program. The Gypsy Moth, both Asian and European, are threats to timber, Christmas tree, and nursery industries, as well as, wildlife habitat. The European Gypsy Moth has established itself in 20 eastern states and has defoliated millions of acres of forests. The Asian Gypsy Moth is an even greater threat due to its ability to spread faster. ODA initially has proposed three aerial applications in May and June of a biological control agent that has been used in the past, which will cover 8,000 acres in the metro area. The Department reports there will be additional costs for testing in 2017 and 2018 estimated at just under \$300,000 each year.

LFO recommends \$539,338 General Fund and a \$1.7 million increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation for eradication efforts of Asian Gypsy Moths be included in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2016 legislative session.