

Meeting scheduled on gypsy moth spraying in Bend

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has scheduled a public information meeting to discuss its proposed gypsy moth eradication project for this spring in a residential area of Bend. ODA representatives and health officials will be on hand to answer questions and concerns from the public.

The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 27, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Calvary Chapel, 20225 Cooley Road in Bend.

ODA is proposing spraying 533-acres in northwest Bend with B.t.k. to eradicate a breeding population of gypsy moths in the area.

ODA is proposing a 533-acre spray area that includes residential properties in northwest Bend, primarily between U.S. Highway 20 and U.S. Highway 97. Last summer, 57 gypsy moths were detected in traps located in the area. In addition, ODA survey technicians were able to find live female gypsy moths and egg masses in the immediate area. The evidence indicates a breeding population of gypsy moth is present in the area.

ODA is proposing three aerial applications of the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (B.t.k.), which has been used routinely in other gypsy moth eradication projects throughout the West, including Oregon, since 1984.

A final decision on the eradication proposal will be made by the director of ODA. If approved, the spray project would be scheduled to take place in late May and early-to-mid June. A draft project Environmental Assessment has been prepared to assess possible environmental impacts of the proposed eradication program. Copies of the draft are available on the ODA Web site and from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Plant Division Office in Salem. Interested persons may also phone 1-800-525-0137 to request a copy. The comment period on the draft Environmental Assessment will end at the close of business March 19, 2007.

Early detection and eradication of gypsy moth infestations are goals of ODA to prevent economic and environmental losses to Oregon by restrictive quarantines on commodities, by loss of foliage and even trees, or loss of favorable fish habitat due to expanding gypsy moth populations.

For more information, contact Kathleen Johnson at (503) 986-4662 or Bruce Pokarney at (503) 986-4559.

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