



**WLFLA**  
"For a Healthier Forest"

## *Wayne-Lackawanna Forest Landowners' Association*

Joseph Preate, President  
Wayne-Lackawanna Forest Landowners' Association  
205 Monroe Street  
Old Forge, PA 18518

Dear Legislators:

We, the Wayne-Lackawanna Forest Landowners' Association (WLFLA), are writing in support of the 2006 Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Resolutions Nos. 115 and 116, recommending that the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and others work cooperatively to support programs to lessen the impact of native and non-native insect species that defoliate and weaken forests on private lands. In the past, the DCNR's only suppression program targeted Gypsy Moths defoliating Pennsylvania's State Forest System and private forested housing developments. Regarding trees on private land, we believe that protecting forested housing developments should not be the sole emphasis of a suppression program, however popular it may be to lessen the impact of caterpillar nuisances and tree defoliation around homes. A suppression program should also aim to protect valuable, working forests.

The WLFLA is relatively new organization formed by private forest landowners in Wayne and Lackawanna Counties to educate and inform forest landowners and the public at large on proper management of woodland. Within the last four years we have grown into a highly active group with some 120 family memberships representing more than 17,000 acres in the two-county area. Our members are asking for your support.

Our forests are valuable to us in many ways: timber production, wildlife habitat, and recreation. With the outbreak of the Forest Tent Caterpillar (FTC) in 2006 and knowing the devastation caused by the outbreak in 1994, '95, and '96, we are very concerned about the potential for 2007. Attached is some background information prepared by our professional forester advisor. Many of our members were affected by the FTC in 2006 or will be in 2007. When entire stands of sugar maple show decline and/or dieback after a single year of heavy defoliation, concern is definitely in order. Sugar maple is the backbone of our forests in many parts of Wayne and Lackawanna Counties; we cannot afford to lose this species from our forests.

Please do what you can to carry the general concept of the Farm Bureau's resolutions forward with other state legislators.

Sincerely

Joseph Preate  
President  
Wayne-Lackawanna Forest Landowners' Association

## Forest Tent Caterpillar Suppression Program A Proposal

### Background:

Forest Tent Caterpillar (FTC) defoliation in Northern Hardwood forests of Pennsylvania and New York has a history of leading to severe dieback and decline in entire stands of sugar maple. Sugar maple is one of the predominant species in Wayne County's forests. In some cases it makes up 60 % of a stand. In the past, the FTC has led to severe sugar maple dieback in the early 1980's in New York, 1994 in northeastern Pennsylvania, and 2004 in Vermont. This phenomenon has happened after only one year of heavy defoliation, usually the first year. In 2006 the FTC struck again, and in the hardest hit areas the sugar maple has not refoliated properly and may well go into severe decline.

This is unlike normal defoliation events, such as defoliation caused by Gypsy Moth in Pennsylvania's oak forests. Normally a heavy defoliation event does not cause a high percentage of tree mortality after only one year, especially in the first year. It normally takes three years of heavy defoliation to cause high tree mortality. The track record of FTC defoliating sugar maple does not follow the normal trend. Severe dieback of sugar maple can happen after only one year of heavy defoliation, witnessed by the afore mentioned events.

Many landowners in Wayne County know the value of their forests and the sugar maple trees. Many are willing to spend the money to protect their forests from further defoliation and possible sugar maple mortality. The challenge is to piece together enough landowners in an area so that they can have reasonable access to an aerial applicator. Forest landowners with 100 plus acres that need FTC suppression, have reasonable access because of the larger acreage. However there are many small landowners with much smaller acreages that may not have reasonable access to aerial contractors. There is a real need for an underwriter/organization/ leadership to bring these landowners together in a unified spray program, similar to Pennsylvania's Gypsy Moth residential spray program. This is where the state can step in and provide leadership and guidance.

Proposal: a partnership between Pennsylvania's DCNR and private forest landowners to protect the health and productivity of Pennsylvania's natural resources for future generations.

Pennsylvania can act as a clearinghouse for forest landowners who desire to protect their forests from FTC defoliation. This program can be expanded to other serious defoliating insects such as the Gypsy Moth, Fall Cankerworm, Elm Spanworm, and others.

Responsibilities of Pennsylvania:

**DCNR would serve as a coordinator for an aerial spray suppression program during anticipated forest pest outbreaks**

**DCNR would sign up forest landowners who desire and may need to be sprayed**

**DCNR would evaluate the need for spraying based upon the forest type, insect type, and estimated pest population numbers**

**DCNR would contract for spraying services for the qualifying landowners**

**DCNR would provide on site supervision during spraying operations**

Responsibilities of Forest Landowners:

1. Supply the maps and stand typing information to DCNR or consultant /coordinator
2. Pay for all or part (if cost sharing becomes available) of only the spray contract cost (see #4 above)
3. Must have at least 25 acres in a spray block (can be multiple landowners with 10 acres or more)

## 2006 Resolutions for PFB Annual Meeting

~~Amend resolution 189 to read:~~ "We recommend that PDA, DCNR and others work cooperatively to support programs that lessen the impacts of:

- 115
- Gypsy Moth
  - Southern Pine Bark Beetle
  - Eastern Tent Caterpillar
  - Webworms
  - And any other species that totally defoliate our native forests

(State)

### Forest Management

We recommend a partnership between Pennsylvania's DCNR and private forest landowners to protect the health and productivity of Pennsylvania's natural resources for future generations.

Pennsylvania will act as a clearing house for forest landowners who desire to protect their forests from FTC or other pest defoliations.

Responsibilities of Pennsylvania: 1)

Contracting services for an aerial spray contractor. 2)

Technical services for evaluation of forest land and the need to spray. 3)

- 116
- Supplying on site supervision during the spray operation. 4) If manpower is not available, retain a private consultant to handle the above responsibilities and coordinate the program. Responsibilities of forest landowners: 1) Supply the maps and stand typing information to DCNR or consultant/coordinator. 2) Pay for all or part (if cost sharing becomes available) of only the spray contract cost. 3) Must have at least 25 acres in a spray block (can be multiple landowners with ten (10) acres or more).

(State)

Amend to read, "We recommend that PDA, DCNR and others work cooperatively to support programs that lessen the impacts of:

- Gypsy Moth
- Southern Pine Bark Beetle
- Eastern Tent Caterpillar
- Webworms
- And any other species that severely defoliate our native forests" ok

Amended to read, "We recommend that during forest pest outbreaks DCNR coordinate for aerial spray suppression programs, sign up forest landowners who may need spraying, evaluate need based upon the forest type, insect type, and estimated pest population numbers, contract for spraying services and provide on site supervision during spray operations.

We recommend dedicated funding and increased manpower to support DCNR's efforts to suppress insect species that have the effect of defoliating Pennsylvania forests.

We recommend that a task force be created within DCNR (or PDA?) to help coordinate the efforts of agencies and private landowners in suppressing the insect species defoliating Pennsylvania's forests." ok

ok



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

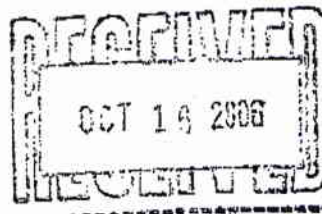
Farm and Foreign  
Agricultural  
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Farm Service  
Agency

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James R. Joseph  
Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency  
2605 Interstate Drive  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9364

October 5, 2006



*Bill -  
Pls make  
sure Frank  
knows about  
this & is  
clear on  
what it is  
TH - Tony C*

Re: Secretarial Natural Disaster Determination S2403

Dear Mr. Joseph:

Please carefully review the following information concerning the subject disaster designation:

<b>Secretarial Designation Number:</b>	<b>S2403</b>
Approval date by the Secretary	10/02/2006
Termination Date - EM loan application:	06/04/2007
Beginning date-Incident period (For determining EM loan security values)	04/10/2006
Ending Date-Incident Period	continuing
Disaster Description	Tent caterpillars

**NEW YORK PRIMARY COUNTIES (3):**

Delaware            Madison            Oneida

**NEW YORK CONTIGUOUS COUNTIES (12):**

Broome	Greene	Onondaga	Schoharie
Chenango	Herkimer	Oswego	Sullivan
Cortland	Lewis	Otsego	Ulster

Also, in accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, counties in adjacent States that are contiguous to one or more of the declared counties are named as contiguous disaster areas where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM loan assistance. For this designation, the affected States and counties are:

**Contiguous Counties in Adjacent States:**

**Pennsylvania (1)**

Wayne

The current interest rate is 3.75 percent. If you have any questions, please contact the Farm Loan Program staff at (717) 237-2157.

Sincerely,



Richard Pallman  
State Executive Director