



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Division of Consumer Protection

Office of Plant and Pest Services

PO Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23218

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www.vdacs.state.va.us

### Gypsy Moth— Slow the Spread Office

1580 North Franklin Street, Suite 7, Christiansburg, Virginia 24073

Phone (540) 394-2507, Fax (540) 394-2514

J. Carlton Courter, III  
Commissioner

December 16, 2005

Dear Property Owner/ Resident:

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (FS) are cooperating in a joint effort to suppress and/or attempt to eradicate small isolated infestations of the gypsy moth in the spring of 2006 by aerial application of a control pheromone. The Gypsy Moth is a serious forest pest that defoliates many species of trees. Trees that have been weakened by other stresses such as drought often die after a single defoliation.

A total of 23 proposed treatment areas were selected on the basis of survey information indicating that a major gypsy moth population increase could occur and cause serious problems if suppression/eradication treatments are not conducted in these areas. Records at the Tax Assessors office indicate that all or part of your property is located within or adjacent to one of the proposed areas where an isolated gypsy moth infestation was found.

The control strategy proposed for your treatment area is the aerial application of **Disrupt II**, pheromone flakes, a gypsy moth specific mating disruption tactic. This tactic has been used for a number of years with good results in reducing gypsy moth populations. The pheromone application hampers the ability of the male gypsy moth to find and mate a viable female because the treatment area is saturated with the synthetic formulation of her attractant. The proposed treatment is scheduled to occur between late May and July of 2006. The application will be conducted, during favorable weather conditions, using aircraft from daybreak to nightfall. Steps will be taken to ensure aircraft and treatment product security.

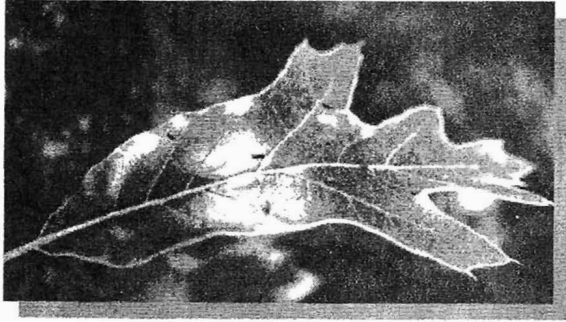
Open-house public comment meetings will be held on the following dates to answer questions and address concerns about the proposed treatments:

<p>January 17, 2006 (6:30-8:30 pm) Wytheville Comm. Center-Bingo Room 250 S. Fourth Street Wytheville, Virginia 24382</p>	<p>January 31, 2006 (6:30-8:30 pm) Christiansburg Public Library 125 Sheltman Street Christiansburg, Virginia 24073</p>	<p>February 2, 2006(6:30pm- 8:30pm) ECC-Auditorium 39 Bank Street SE Chatham, Virginia 24531</p>
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No reply to this letter is necessary. This is only to inform you that a treatment is being proposed on or adjacent to your property. No fees will be charged to you for this treatment. If a tenant occupies your property, please provide them with a copy of this letter. An information leaflet on "DISRUPT II" and a map of the proposed treatment block on or adjacent to your property are attached. Additional maps and literature will be available at the comment meetings or on the Gypsy Moth-Slow the Spread Foundation web site (www.gmsts.org). If you are not the current land owner or cannot attend a comment meeting and have questions about the treatment, please contact our office by February 10, 2006.

Sincerely

Larry Bradfield  
VDACS-STs



## Fact Sheet

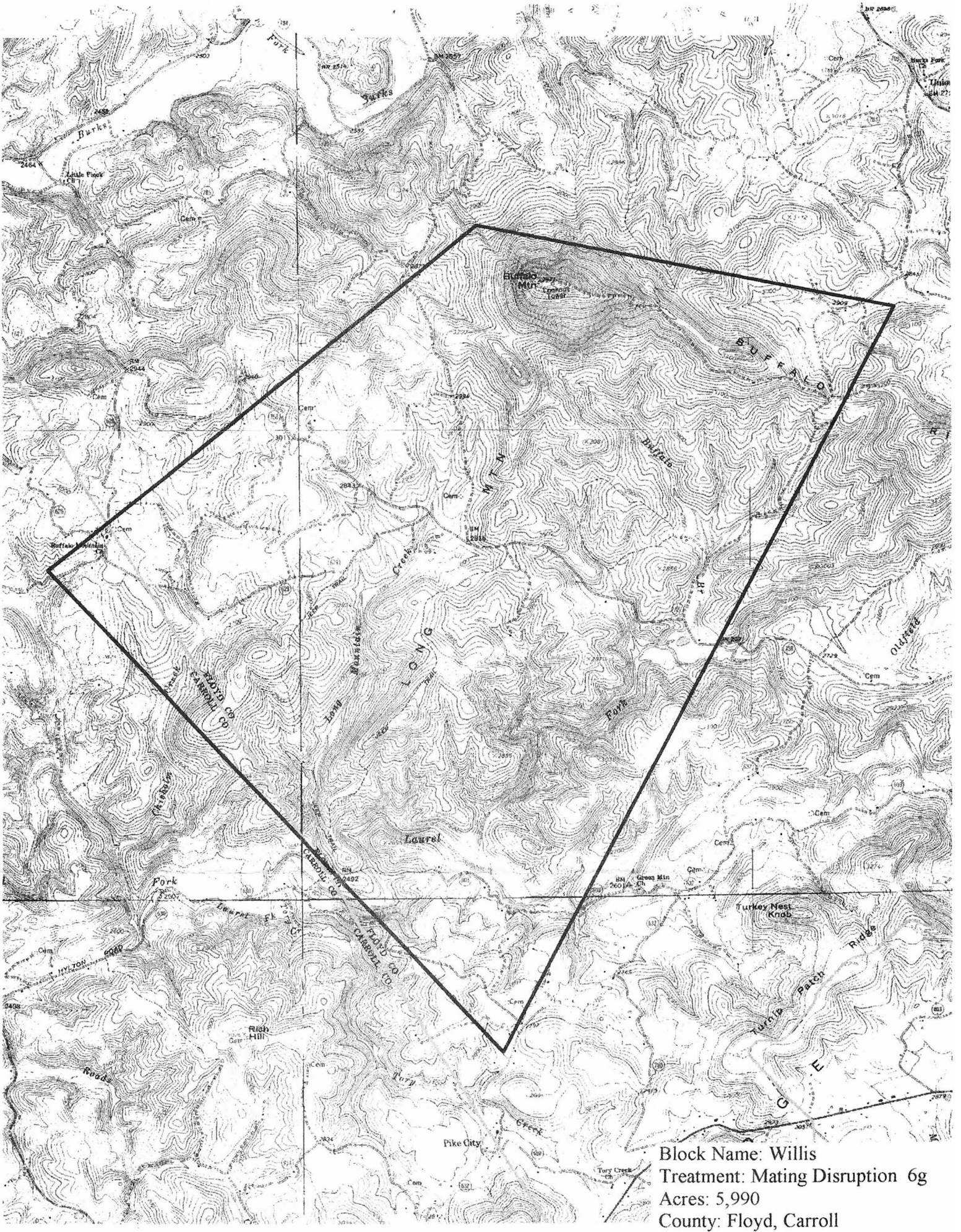
### Gypsy Moth Mating Disruption

Pheromones are semiochemicals produced by insects to communicate with one another. In the case of the gypsy moth, the female releases a sex pheromone when she is ready to mate. The pheromone is a potent attractant for the male moths and they respond by following the scent to its source – the female. In the past decade, technology has been developed to use the pheromone to control gypsy moth infestations by disrupting the communication between sexes, thereby preventing mating. The pheromone is injected between thin sheets of plastic, then chopped into small pieces (1/32 x 3/32 inches) and scattered over the forest canopy using an airplane. The plastic flakes slowly release the pheromone into the environment over a 2-3 month period, when gypsy moths would be mating. The males become disoriented because the air is filled with pheromone and they cannot find the females. This process is called mating disruption and is effective at controlling low-level infestations.

- Disparlure (chemical name: *cis*-7, 8-epoxy-2-methyloctadecane) is the name of the sex pheromone produced by the female gypsy moth to attract the male for mating purposes. Disparlure is also synthesized and used in the cooperative USDA Forest Service Slow The Spread project to control low-density gypsy moth populations.
- Disrupt® II is the name of the plastic flake product manufactured by Hercon Environmental that contains disparlure as the active ingredient. The small, green flakes (see picture) release the pheromone continuously during the period when adult gypsy moths are active and keep the males from finding or mating with the females.
- Prior to application, the flakes are mixed with a sticker (Solutia's Gelva) to ensure they will stick at all levels in the forest canopy where gypsy moths are found.
- Currently, the recommended application rates for Disrupt II are 15 and 6grams of active ingredient per acre. The 15gram rate is equivalent to approximately ½ cup of flakes distributed per acre. Two fluid ounces of sticker is mixed with the ½ cup flakes and yields approximately 1 or 2 sticky flakes per square foot of canopy area. Proportionally, the 6 gram rate is less than ¼ cup of flakes per acre, less than 1 ounce of sticker per acre and less than 1 flake per square foot of canopy area.
- The products used in mating disruption (Disrupt II and Gelva) do not pose a risk to humans or the environment.

For more information contact  
USDA Forest Service  
Forest Health Protection  
Asheville, NC





Block Name: Willis  
Treatment: Mating Disruption 6g  
Acres: 5,990  
County: Floyd, Carroll