

SPONGY MOTH

Management
Options



DEFOLIATION EN MASSE

- Host trees vary, prefer oaks
- Hatching in early May
- Feeding for 7-8 weeks
- Adults do not feed



STAGES OF GROWTH WHAT TO EXPECT

EGG

Each mass
contains approx.
600 eggs

LARVA

7-8 Weeks of
constant feeding

PUPA

Metamorphosis for
1-2 weeks in
June/July

ADULT
MALE

Exist solely for
mating, does not
feed

ADULT
FEMALE

Flightless, will lay a
single egg mass
after mating



PUPAL STAGE



- Most treatments ineffective after this point
- Metamorphosis lasts about 2 weeks
- No feeding after metamorphosis

EGG MASSES



- Females only make one egg sac per year
- Rusty orange, hairy
- Prefer to lay on Oak trees, undersides of branches
- Each sac contains 500-600 eggs

LARVAL STAGE



- Voracious eaters, will eat nonstop after hatching
- Males last 7 weeks, females last 8 weeks
- Often confused with tent worms in early growth
- Frass is #1 complaint from homeowners

DAMAGE DONE TO TREES?



- Complete defoliation possible in outbreak years
- Stunted growth, dieback of branches and limbs
- Larger hardwoods rebound
- Evergreens, small trees harshly impacted

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A SPONGY MOTH INFESTATION



DESTROY EGG MASSES

Scrape into soap water or burn.



BANDING HOST TREES

Tape or band products to trap worms



APPLY SPRAY IN THE SPRING

Specialized insecticide for Spongy Moth in Spring



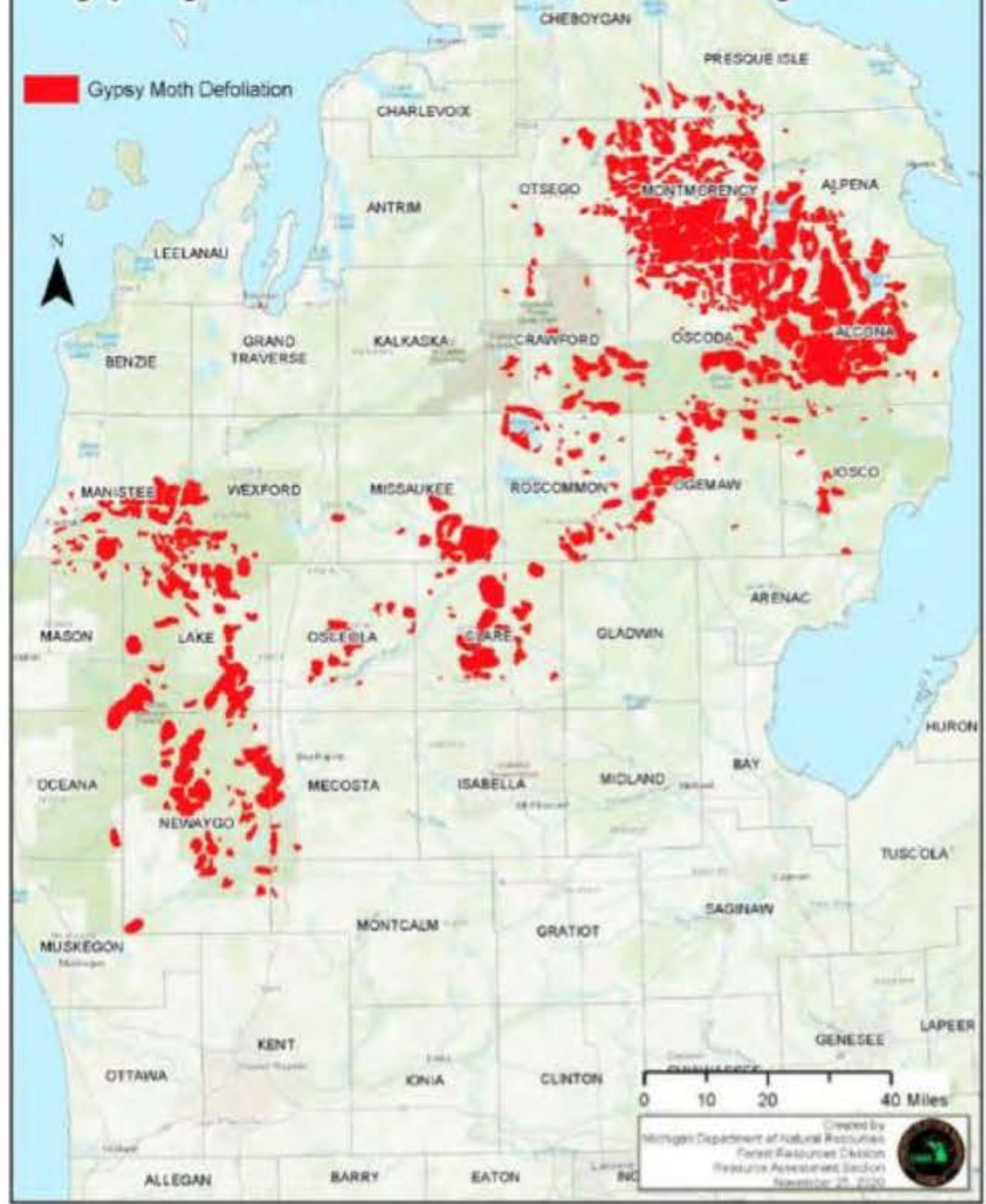
WAIT FOR NATURAL CONTROL

Introduced fungi and bacteria for population collapse

RISK MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC NEED

- Nearing end of the 5-7 year outbreak cycle
- Population collapse imminent, is treatment needed?
- Cost of spray vs. tree and home maintenance
- Funding options

Gypsy Moth Aerial Survey 2020



EXAMPLE FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- Ada Township partnered with Hamilton Helicopters, Inc.
- Surveys completed by Aquatic Consulting Services
- 2,967 acres treated, approximate cost of \$200,000
- 2022 initial spray covered by township, further spraying to be funded by special assessment



WEIGHING OPTIONS



SURVEY EGG MASSES

- Seasonal workers to count egg masses in August/September
- Possibly volunteer work/citizen science
- Can help predict outbreak areas of concern

PRE-EMPTIVE SPRAYING

- Aerial spray in known areas of concern
- Ensure effective, immediate treatment
- Popular treatment option



QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Learn more about local resource needs at
www.barrycd.org

