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MDA Proposing Gypsy Moth Treatment for Two Harbors Area in 2018

Open House Set for February 28

St. Paul, MN: The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and partner organizations are planning to tackle a gypsy moth infestation west of Two Harbors this spring. In anticipation of the proposed treatment, the department is inviting people to learn about the effort at an open house on February 28 in Two Harbors.

Gypsy moths are ranked among America's most destructive tree pests. The insect has caused millions of dollars in damage to forests as it has spread from New England to Wisconsin in recent decades. Gypsy moth caterpillars can defoliate large sections of forest. The pests are common in Wisconsin and are now establishing themselves in Minnesota.

The MDA maintains a monitoring program to watch for start-up infestations, and when an infestation is found, the department conducts aerial treatments of the infestation before it can spread. In 2017, the MDA found an infestation west of Two Harbors. The department is now developing a treatment plan for an approximate 525 acre area that is centered on the intersection of Shoreview Road and 7th Avenue. (SEE MAP) Details of the area can be found at www.mda.state.mn.us/gmtreatments.

The MDA will host an open house from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. on February 28 to share information with citizens about the threat gypsy moths pose to the environment and how officials plan to protect the urban forest. There will not be a formal presentation.

Meeting details:

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Lake County Forestry Office

419 Airport Rd.

Two Harbors, MN 55616

Over the years, the MDA has successfully treated dozens of gypsy moth infestations across eastern Minnesota from Grand Portage to the Twin Cities to Houston County, including a treatment in and around Two Harbors in 2016. These successful treatments help postpone the full-scale invasion of gypsy moth, saving local communities and homeowners money and protecting the health of the state's urban and natural forests.

For more information on the proposed treatments, go to www.mda.state.mn.us/gmtreatments.

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