



## Pike County Conservation District

### MEMO

To: Commissioner Matthew Osterberg  
Commissioner Ronald Schmalzle  
Commissioner Christa Caceres

CC: Krista Gromalski and the PCCD Board of Directors

From: Tara Mlodzienski, District Manager

Date: March 22, 2024

Re: 2024 Spongey Moth Public Messaging Initiative

---

In anticipation of the 2024 spongy moth Spring egg hatching season, I wanted to reach out to you to coordinate messaging that will be provided to the public by both of our offices. DCNR has stated they are expecting heavy spongy moth defoliation again this year, so I wanted to make sure that we were all on the same page with how we are proceeding.

Below is the District's suggested wording for answering inquiries from the public, which can be provided to anyone in your office who may be taking calls and receiving questions on this topic:

- Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*), formerly known as gypsy moth, is a forest pest responsible for causing significant tree mortality and defoliation across the state.
- Currently, there are no state or local residential spraying programs. We recommend that landowners work with their neighbors or community associations to hire an aerial sprayer to assess what needs there are on your property. If you are interested in setting up your own private spray program, please refer to the links below:
  - Guide to Conducting a Private Spongy Moth Suppression Program provided by DCNR
    - [https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=3238481&DocName=Private%20GMSP%20Guidance\\_20200818.pdf](https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=3238481&DocName=Private%20GMSP%20Guidance_20200818.pdf)
  - Aerial Applicators Licensed to Work in Pennsylvania provided by DCNR
    - [https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=4666261&DocName=Spongy\\_Moth\\_Aerial\\_Applicator\\_Contact\\_List\\_2022.pdf](https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=4666261&DocName=Spongy_Moth_Aerial_Applicator_Contact_List_2022.pdf)
    - **\*NOTE:** This list of aerial applicators is provided by DCNR and is not endorsed by Pike County Conservation District and is not updated by the District.
  - DCNR Service Forester to Each County provided by DCNR

- [elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=3593430&DocName=Service Forester List March 2021.pdf](https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=3593430&DocName=Service%20Forester%20List%20March%202021.pdf)
  - Guide to Spongy Moth Egg Mass Surveying provided by Penn State Extension
    - [Guide to Spongy Moth Egg Mass Surveying \(psu.edu\)](https://www.psu.edu/extension/forestry/management/spongy-moth-egg-mass-surveying)
- While DCNR does not spray for spongy moths on private lands, they do treat state and federal forest lands. In Pennsylvania in 2023, they sprayed over 290,000 acres of state forest, state park, and national forest lands. See the link below for a DCNR newsletter article for more information about what we can do about the spongy moth outbreak:
  - [elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=7868320&DocName=What Can We Do About Spongy Moth Forest Focus Fall 2023.pdf](https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=7868320&DocName=What%20Can%20We%20Do%20About%20Spongy%20Moth%20Forest%20Focus%20Fall%202023.pdf)

I hope this information is helpful. I know in the past inquiries about spraying programs had been directed to our office, and I wanted to make sure that we avoided confusing or frustrating the public by having a unified message we provided. This information will also be forwarded to each of the municipalities after your review. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.