

APPENDIX A: ISSUES, QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FROM PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

On December 18, 2019 approximately 59 letter notifications were mailed to public officials and on January 6, 2020 approximately 1,394 postcard notifications were mailed to residents in the proposed treatment sites informing them of the public meetings. Legal notices were published in local newspapers informing the public about the upcoming meetings on the proposed treatment sites. An IDNR News Release was sent out with information on the scheduled public meetings and the public comment period. Information on the public meetings, proposed treatments and the comment period was also posted on the Indiana DNR, Div. of Entomology and Plant Pathology (DEPP) website [gypsy moth page](#) and on the [Indiana DNR-DEPP Twitter page](#).

Three public meetings were held for citizens, public officials and interested individuals (Table 1). The proposed action and alternatives, including no action, were discussed. There was a total attendance of 16 citizens at the meetings.

At each of the public meetings, representatives from the Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology presented the proposed gypsy moth project and answered and received questions and comments. The presentation explained:

- the life cycle, feeding habits and hosts of gypsy moth;
- the identification of gypsy moth;
- survey methods;
- gypsy moth impacts and damage to the trees and forest;
- selection of proposed sites;
- selection of the treatment options;
- the timing and application of treatments;
- boundaries of the treatment sites with maps;
- the public comment period and decision process.

All public comments received by the public comment deadline of March 6, 2020 were considered in the final decision for the proposed treatments.

Information gathered from the public and from resource professionals was used to develop and review issues and concerns related to the project. They are grouped into two main categories; 1) issues used to formulate the alternatives in the environmental assessment (the four main issues), and 2) other issues and concerns.

The questions and comments received during and after the public meetings were categorized into four main issues:

- Human health and safety;

- Nontarget effects and environmental effects;
- Economic and political impacts;
- Likelihood of success of the proposed project, and the treatment options proposed.

These 4 issues were used to analyze each of the Alternatives in the Environmental Consequences (Section 4.0) in the Environmental Assessment. A detailed list of comments and questions from the public meetings is in the Administrative File.

After the decision on the proposed treatments is made and if treatments are conducted, residents will be mailed a notification approximately two weeks prior to treatment. DNR News Releases will be sent out to local media with a request to communicate the information to the general public. Phone calls will be made to public officials and other interested individuals. Updates regarding the scheduled day of treatment will continue prior to and through treatments via local media, phone calls, emails and Twitter.

Table 1. Table of Public Meetings and Attendance

County	Date	Location	Time	Attendance
Huntington	Wednesday January 29	Huntington City/Township Public Library, 255 W. Park Drive, Huntington, IN 46750	6 p.m. EST	16
Marshall	Thursday January 30	Argos Public Library, 142 N. Michigan Street, Argos, IN 46501	6 p.m. EST	0
Porter	Wednesday February 5	Valparaiso Public Library, 103 Jefferson Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383	6 p.m. CST	0
				16