

APPA 2023-2027 Pesticide Use Program Compliance

Project: Programmatic Review of Routine Integrated Pest Management Strategies Including the Use of Pesticides on APPA lands in Calendar Years 2023-2027.

PEPC Project Number: 112399

This programmatic compliance review (PCR) serves to document the environmental compliance review for routine pesticide uses on Appalachian National Scenic Trail (APPA) lands in calendar years 2023-2027. The purpose of a PCR is to reduce the volume of NEPA/NHPA documentation required for multiple instances of ongoing and recurring actions that result in predictable non-significant impacts under NEPA and an assessment of no adverse effect under NHPA.

Compliance with other environmental laws and regulations such as ESA and CWA were also considered in preparing this PCR.

Requested pesticide uses will be screened by APPA's Integrated Pest Management Coordinator and/or Environmental Protection Specialist to determine if conditions warrant further review to ensure compliance and resource protection. Separate compliance documentation will be prepared when deemed appropriate.

Project Description: This project entails the routine treatment of park facilities, selected natural areas, park lands in agricultural use, and utility and pipeline corridors that cross park lands with approved chemical products (Environmental Protection Agency labeled, utilizing the NPS Pesticide Use Proposal System also known as PUPS) to control stinging or biting insects where needed and/or their nests; invasive exotic species; pre and post treatment on native species restoration sites, open space/cultural landscapes/natural areas, administrative and historic structures (occupied and unoccupied), and right-of-way areas where applicable. In addition, this applies to personal use sprays which include park purchased insecticides and similar products for employee use to prevent bites by ticks, mosquitoes, black flies and other such biting insects. Coordination and approval for park use of any pesticide products is completed via the park, Regional and/or WASO IPM Coordinator(s) under the appropriate authorities, legal requirements, and policies.

Protection of human health and well-being, invasive exotic pest control, maintenance of the ecological integrity of native habitat, maintenance of the historic scene, and the maintenance of structural integrity of facilities drive these activities. These actions will primarily be carried out by NPS staff, cooperators, partners, volunteers, lessees, and permittees and/or contractors. An integrated pest management approach will be utilized when addressing nuisance pest issues. IPM is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most effective and economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

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Applications may be conducted year-round, with procedures and recommendations typically reviewed individually for each application. Temporary closures to visitors/employees may be implemented when necessary. All products will be evaluated and approved for use through the PUPS system prior to project implementation. Staff /contractors implementing projects will treat sites with the minimum amount of product required, as directed by the product label and wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Commercially licensed applicators may also be utilized to treat sites as needed using only those products pre-approved by the park. Applicators or contractors are responsible to report the amount of products applied and the area treated to the APPA IPM coordinator at the end of the project/season.

Pesticide applications may be accomplished with the use of a hand-held sprayer, dust applicator, paintbrush, aerosol can, bait station, bait granules, crack and crevice treatment, backpack sprayer, a tank sprayer on a on a UTV, truck or tractor, or from a boom sprayer mounted on a UTV or tractor, or by other means. Applications should be performed or monitored by NPS employees, cooperators, permittees, or contractors that are state licensed pesticide applicators. The amount of product(s) used is recorded for each treatment and entered into the PUPS database. Use of control measures in buildings shall follow the Integrated Pest Management strategy as well, utilizing products and/or methods pre-approved by the park's, the regional, and/or the WASO IPM coordinators.

Project Locations: On lands owned in fee or easement by the NPS for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. These lands are not contiguous and are located generally along the Appalachian Mountains from Nahmakanta Lake to approximately Bland, Virginia. Consisting of approximately 125,000 acres of land, spread out across eleven states along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Conditions/ Mitigations:

- Requests for pesticide use will be reviewed by APPA's IPM Coordinator and/or Environmental Protection Specialist to identify resources that may require further specialist review or permits. Example: application in wetland, presence of sensitive species or habitat. Separate compliance documentation will be prepared when warranted.
- Requests for pesticide use in Clarke, Loudoun, and Fauquier Counties, Virginia will be reviewed by the park resource manager and compliance manager to ensure protection of the endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.
- Pesticide applications will be performed by or under the supervision of certified or registered applicators licensed under the procedures of a federal or state certification system.
- When directed by park or ATC staff, signs will be posted to alert hikers of pesticide application near the A.T. footpath. Sign content, locations, and length of use will be specified.
- All pesticide use on park lands must be reported annually.

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NEPA

In accordance with Director's Order 12 and the NPS NEPA Handbook, the routine use of pesticides as part of the park's overall resource management plan has been reviewed for environmental impacts. It has been determined that the activities described in this document qualify for coverage under a Categorical Exclusion. Because these activities are routine, this Programmatic CE will serve as compliance documentation for all qualifying pesticide use applications in the park in calendar years 2023-2027. To qualify for coverage under this PCR, pesticide use requests will be screened to ensure protection of any sensitive resources at a particular location.

This PCR will serve as a formal record for activities related to Routine Integrated Pest Management Strategies Including the Use of Pesticides at APPA in Calendar Years 2023-2027. This activity is categorically excluded under NPS DO #12, Section 3.3, Actions Related to Development and Actions Related to Resource Management and Protection. The use of pesticides is a tool routinely used for different types of projects that fall under the following CE categories:

E.2. Restoration of noncontroversial native species into suitable habitats within their historic range and the elimination of exotic species.

E. 3. Removal of park resident individuals of non-threatened/endangered species which pose a danger to visitors, threaten park resources or become a nuisance in areas surrounding a park, when such removal is included in an approved resource management plan.

CE Justification: This PCR covers application of pesticides approved for use on NPS lands to address pests that pose a threat to park resources and visitors as outlined in the ANST 2008 Resource Management Plan and NPS 2006 Management Policies. Controlled pesticide use is a type of activity that has routinely been carried out in the park without significant environmental impact.

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusions above and no extraordinary circumstances apply. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis.

Signature:

12/9/2022

Superintendent Wendy K. Janssen

Date

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NHPA

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the routine use of pesticides as part of the park's overall resource management plan has been assessed for effects on historic properties. It has been determined that the program/undertaking described in this document will have no adverse effect on historic properties. Because these activities are routine, this Assessment of Effect will serve as compliance documentation for all qualifying pesticide use applications in the park in calendar years 2023-2027. To qualify for coverage under this PCR, pesticide use requests will be screened to ensure protection of any historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect for each particular proposal.

This PCR will serve as a formal record for activities related to Routine Integrated Pest Management Strategies Including the Use of Pesticides at APPA in Calendar Years 2023-2027. This activity is eligible for streamlined review activity #5, "Routine Grounds Maintenance," in the NPS Nationwide Section 106 Programmatic Agreement.

Decision: I find that the undertaking fits within the streamline review activity above and will have no adverse effect to historic properties.

Signature:

12/9/2022

Superintendent Wendy K. Janssen

Date