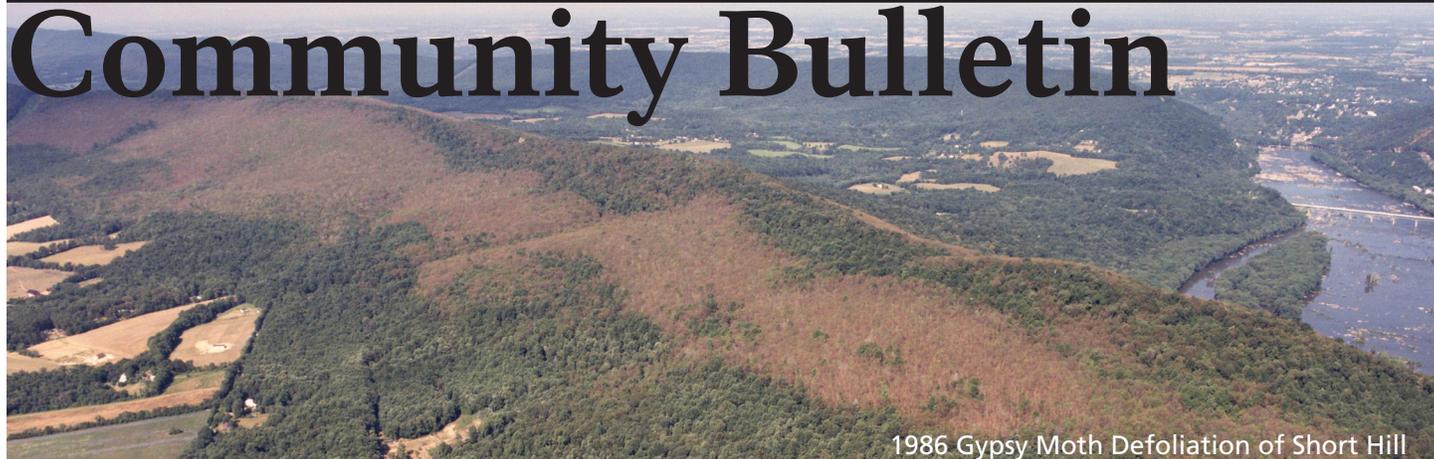




Community Bulletin



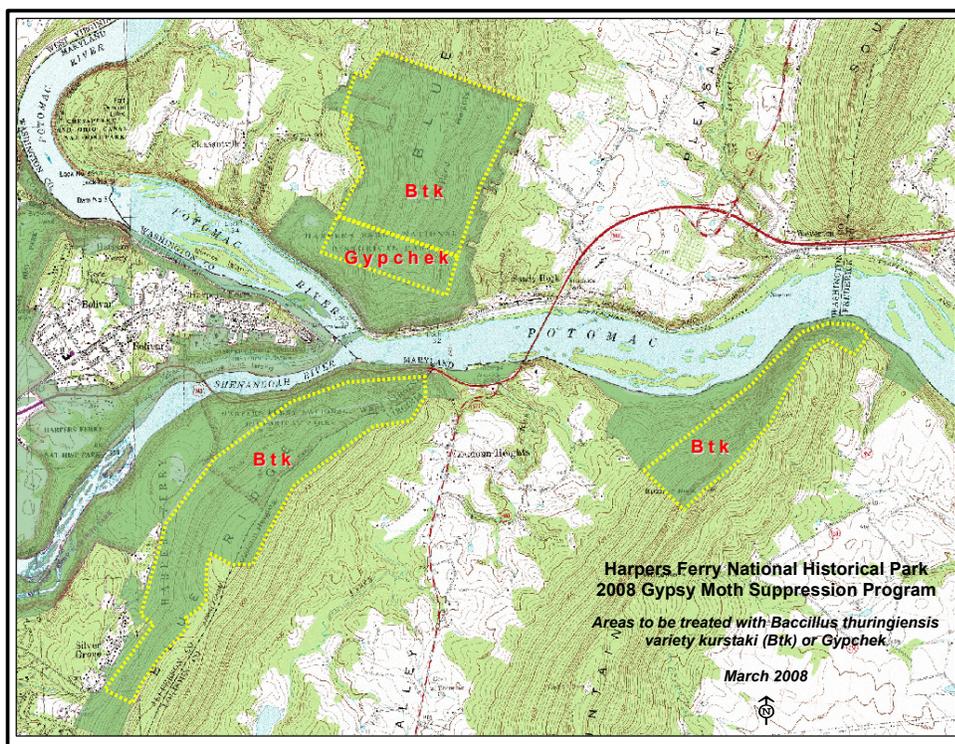
1986 Gypsy Moth Defoliation of Short Hill

Environmental Review of 2008 Gypsy Moth Program at Harpers Ferry Park

The 2008 Gypsy Moth Suppression Program Draft Environmental Assessment for Harpers Ferry Park is available for public review. It is available on the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/parknews/newsreleases.htm>. Bound copies are also available for review at the park's headquarters in the Morrell House on Fillmore Street in Harpers Ferry, at the Harpers Ferry Town Hall on Washington Street, and at public libraries in Harpers Ferry-Bolivar, Lovettsville, Virginia and Brunswick, Maryland.

Over 200 acres of forest land were defoliated last June on Maryland Heights and Short Hill with smaller patches of defoliation on Loudoun Heights. Based on a biological evaluation completed last fall by the U.S. Forest Service, gypsy moth populations at the park are healthy, building, and sufficient to cause over 1600 acres of heavy defoliation in 2008.

The purpose of the program is to prevent or minimize adverse effects to the environment by reducing gypsy moth populations and protecting tree foliage. The proposed alternatives include a no-action alternative (Alternative 1) and five action alternatives (Alternatives 2-6). Alternative 6 is the preferred



alternative. It includes two applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk) as the primary control material. In sensitive areas where rare butterflies have been found, two applications of Gypchek® would be used. Gypchek® is specific to gypsy moth and does not affect native butterflies and moths. The NPS encourages the public to review the Draft EA and submit comments as follows:

Email to bill_hebb@nps.gov or writing to the Superintendent, Harpers Ferry NHP, P.O. Box 65, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.

Comments will be accepted until April 11, 2008. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Bill Hebb, Harpers Ferry NHP at (304) 535-6038.