



Montana Invasive Species Council

Xerolenta obvia (Eastern Heath Snail Science) Advisory Panel

December 7 – 10, 2020

Zoom

Purpose: To examine the existing body of knowledge about *Xerolenta obvia* (Eastern Heath Snail), identify gaps related to its basic biology, monitoring techniques, control options, and best practices for managing pathways, and develop recommendations for a containment and management strategy to address populations in Belt, Montana and the outlying areas.

Expected Panel Outcomes:

- Review the state of science about the basic biology of *X. obvia* and identify gaps in knowledge.
- Identify gaps and challenges associated with containing and managing *X. obvia*.
- Identify information and strategies to improve management of *X. obvia*.
- Acquire input and guidance regarding funding sources for research and regulatory needs.
- Develop management strategies to address survey and monitoring, control options, private landowner education and outreach, and best practices for managing movement through forage, gravel, and other material pathways.
- Identify next steps to be taken by researchers, regulators, and managers regarding the containment and management of *X. obvia*.
- Discuss including snail inspection to “weed free” certification in upcoming legislation

Agenda (Times are for Montana, MST)

Day 1	Monday, December 7	Biology & Research
2:00 PM	Welcome Background and need for Science Advisory Panel on <i>X. obvia</i>	Bryce Christiaens
2:10 PM	Introductions	Panelists
2:20 PM	<i>X. obvia</i> interviews and status	Video
2:25 PM	1. Population Status and Biology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview and control efforts since the publication of the draft EA in 2012. 	Ian Foley, Administrator, Agricultural Sciences Division, Montana Department of Agriculture
2:40 PM	2. Montana research and research priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research to support management and future needs for staff, facilities, and funding. 	Jeffrey Littlefield, Ph.D. Research Scientist, Montana State University
2:55 PM	Panelist Discussion Focus: Population status in Montana, local snail behavior and priority research areas.	Panelists
3:45 PM	Attendee Questions (via chat)	Stephanie Criswell
3:55 PM	Daily Review	Mindy Wilkinson
Day 2	Tuesday, December 8	Control Tools & Integrated Pest Management
2:00 PM	Welcome Review Day 1 discussions and recommendations	Mindy Wilkinson
2:05 PM	3. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species present in Australia, similarity to <i>X. obvia</i> Management: costs (chaining, till, rolling, baits), environmental impacts, effectiveness What early interventions could have changed the course of the establishment of the snails? 	Helen Brodie, Agricultural Entomologist, South Australian Research and Development Institute
2:35 PM	Panelist Discussion Focus: Cost of continued spread, priority compared to other pests, feasibility of control.	Panelists
3:45 PM	Attendee Questions (via chat)	Stephanie Criswell
3:55 PM	Daily Review	Mindy Wilkinson

Day 3	Wednesday, December 9	Response Considerations
2:00 PM	Welcome Review Day 1 & 2 discussions and recommendations	Mindy Wilkinson
2:05 PM	4. Regulatory status and population control experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within-state containment resources • Regulations relating to movement of introduced snails 	Brian Sullivan, Plant Safeguarding Specialist, USDA APHIS PPQ
2:20 PM	Panelist Discussion Focus: Experience with small population removal, response resources and duration, US registered pesticides	Panelists
3:45 PM	Attendee Questions (via chat)	Stephanie Criswell
3:55 PM	Daily Review	Mindy Wilkinson
Day 4	Thursday, December 10	Recommendations
2:00 PM	Welcome Review Day 1, 2, & 3 discussions	Mindy Wilkinson
2:05 PM	5. Management Recommendations Best practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management approach for Belt • Detection and pathway monitoring 	Panelists
2:50 PM	6. Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder engagement • Funding • Regulatory framework 	Panelists
3:35 PM	Attendee Questions (via chat)	Stephanie Criswell
3:45 PM	Review Recommendations	Mindy Wilkinson
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