**Cost Per Trap Assignment – 1/25/2012 Report**

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Description: We initially performed a cost per trap analysis for the 2010 Colorado Gypsy Moth trapping and funding data that determined two cost estimates; (1) traps that required overnight stays and (2) those that did not. We then decided to attempt a cost per trap study for a CAPS program with multiple traps and multiple survey dates throughout the year. Our final intention with these analyses is to streamline project proposals and their approval process by creating a general cost per trap for all trap types across CAPS surveys.

Results: After studying the 2010 Colorado Pine, Small Grains, and Grape Commodity–Based Surveys, we quickly realized that an all-encompassing cost per trap would not be possible, and determining costs per trap within these programs would take longer than expected. Basic survey differences (traps vs. visual, the different trap styles, costs, the longevity of each trap, frequency they need to be surveyed or serviced, whether they rely on pheromones or color for trapping) were too disparate to produce a one-cost-fits-all estimate. In our opinion, while it is possible to provide an adequate cost estimate for similar traps and trapping schedules (ex., grouping all delta traps with pheromone lures that are surveyed twice a year), an estimate that encompasses all traps would not be appropriate or useful. Our focus has changed to an area that can be implemented quickly with potential cost savings in the near-term.

New Focus: During our research into the cost estimates, we interviewed many cooperators and PPQ employees who organize, manage, and work on these surveys. With budgets decreasing, most that we spoke with were looking to further bundle surveys, and also have come up with some excellent ideas to decrease costs while still obtaining rigorous and accurate data. With so many excellent cost-saving measures, we feel that a separate comments section added to the reports that PPQ receives during the year encouraging describing these cost savings ideas to be a worthy addition with the potential for rapid cost savings across CAPS surveys. These could then be shared with other program managers. In addition, this cost saving data could also include ideas that would help programs to find seasonal workers. We will continue to study surveys for good cost per trap estimates.