



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY
2478 Fairview Drive
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Phone (775) 684-2500 Fax (775) 684-2570

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 1, 2017
Contact: Gene Phillips at 775-849-2500 Ext 241

FOREST PEST ALERT

Carson City, Nevada - The Nevada Division of Forestry is issuing a Forest Pest Alert for the White Satin Moth. This non-native insect is causing medium to heavy defoliation in the North Canyon and Marlette lake areas at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. The NDF has recently mapped approximately 200 acres of defoliation in this area. Sightings in the Carson Valley, Spooner Summit, USA Parkway area, and Paradise Valley have also been confirmed. The white satin moth (*Leucoma salicis*) is a non-native defoliator of aspen, cottonwoods, willows and other deciduous species and is native to Europe and Asia. It was introduced into North America in British Columbia in 1920. It is currently distributed from BC to Northern California, and has been present in Nevada since the 1980's. Moths overwinter as larvae which hibernate on trunks or branches of a host in silken coverings which are very hard to see because they are covered by bark, mosses and other debris. They emerge in May to early June they feed on the new young leaves. Feeding continues through July as the larvae grow until they are approximately 3.5-4.5 cm long caterpillars. This stage is the most often seen and the caterpillar is mostly grayish brown with a dark head and back. Unique markings for identification include a row of large oblong white to pale-yellow patches down the back. These larvae spin cocoons and emerge as adult moths in late July and August adult moths. The white adult moth is 2-4cm long and have no markings on the wings.

Larvae feed on the host tree's foliage (defoliation) and damage is directly related to population size. Defoliated trees can produce new leaves the same season and will have a ragged appearance. Continued, repeated defoliation can cause long term damage and tree death. Defoliated trees are weakened and can be susceptible to other insect or disease problems. Current damage is medium to severe with damage currently ranging from 40-70% canopy loss. The most significant areas of defoliations known are on the east side of Marlette Lake at the campground and in aspen stands immediately south of the lake in north canyon. Other damage has not been estimated but will occur and be monitored the remainder of the summer season.

The NDF will be conducting annual aerial surveys of this area and the rest of the state over the next 4 weeks to determine the extent of this problem as well as normal mapping of forest pests. In addition NDF will begin trapping in the next week to monitor populations.

The Nevada Division of Forestry will also be investigating the possibility of a control program in the future to minimize damage to the aspen forest in the area and statewide. NDF is requesting if the public has observed this insect or similar damage to please contact the NDF Forest Health

Specialist (Gene Phillips) at 775-849-2500 ext241. This will provide valuable information for tracking and monitoring purposes.

If you have questions, please contact NDF Forest Health Specialist (Gene Phillips) at 775-849-2500 ext241.

###

The **Nevada Division of Forestry** is a division within the **Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**. The Division coordinates and manages all forestry, nursery, endangered plant species and watershed resource activities on certain public and private lands. The Division provides protection of life, property and natural resources through fire suppression, prevention programs and other emergency services, as required.

NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Kacey KC, Acting State Forester/Firewarden
Nevada Division of Forestry
2478 Fairview Drive
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Phone (775) 684-2500, **Fax** (775) 687-4244
www.forestry.nv.gov