



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Forest
Health
Protection

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Subject: Douglas-fir Tussock Moth Pheromone Detection Survey 2003 Report (NE04-01)

To: Forest Supervisors: Eldorado, Inyo, Lassen, Plumas, Modoc, Sierra, Stanislaus, Sequoia and Tahoe National Forests and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Enclosed are the results of the 2003 cooperative Douglas-fir tussock moth (DFTM) pheromone detection survey. Average trap catches for 2003 showed increases in many plots compared to 2002 catches (Table 1). Data were collected for 163 plots (5 traps/plot) during 2003. There were 106 (65%) plots with an average of <25 males per trap and 57 plots (35%) that averaged 25 or more moths per trap. In 2002, only 4 % of the plots averaged >25 males moths per trap. Plots that averaged >25 moths per trap for 2003 were located on the following Ranger Districts: Amador, Placerville, and Pacific (Eldorado NF), Hat Creek (Lassen NF), Beckwourth and Mt. Hough (Plumas) Greenhorn and Tule River (Sequoia NF), Bass Lake (Sierra NF), Calaveras, Miwok and Summit (Stanislaus NF) and Downieville, Foresthill and Nevada City (Tahoe NF). In addition to these plots monitored on National Forest lands there were three plots that exceeded and average of 25 moths/trap on lands of other ownership. One plot was located in Yosemite National Park, 1 on B.L.M. land near Widow Mountain, west of the town of Bieber in Lassen County, and 1 plot monitored by C.D.F. near Hilton in Modoc County.

Increases and declines in trap counts are very common with DFTM populations. Based on the results of the 2003 monitoring, there may be some increases in activity by DFTM during 2004. During the field season of this year Forest Health Protection staff will monitor other life stages in the areas where DFTM activity exceeded an average of 25 males/trap. Field going personnel are urged to continue to check for evidence of feeding and defoliation on white fir throughout the susceptible host type this summer and fall and report any findings to their Forest Health Protection Shared Services Office.

Sufficient trapping materials have been ordered for the detection survey plots for 2004. They will be distributed to cooperators in June or July of this year. Please direct any questions and/or observations of feeding or defoliation to Sheri Smith (530-252-6667) or John Wenz at (209-532-3671). Updates on population monitoring will be distributed to land managers as needed. FHP appreciates the continued cooperation from all agencies in this ongoing west-wide survey effort.

/s/ Sheri Lee Smith

Sheri Lee Smith

Supervisory Entomologist

Forest Health Protection

NE CA Shared Service Area

Enclosure



cc: Jesse Rios, CDF&FP, Sacramento
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