
INFORMATION BULLETIN

Ministry of Forests and Range

[release number]

April 6, 2010 (TBC)

PEACHLAND – The Ministry of Forests and Range and Regional District of Central Okanagan are hosting an information session on proposed plans to reduce the threat of Douglas-fir tussock moth populations to forest health.

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Time: 7 to 8 p.m.

Location: Peachland Community Centre, 4446 6th Street, Peachland

An entomologist and forest health specialists will be available to provide information on the tussock moth, the proposed treatment area and the insecticides that will be used. There will also be an open-floor question period and advice for landowners interested in protecting trees on their property.

Proposed treatments include aerial spraying of about 1,000 hectares of Crown and private forested land in the Trepanier Creek area. These sites have been identified as having high tussock moth populations that will cause severe defoliation if not treated.

The insecticides – TM Biocontrol-1® (a virus) and Foray 48B (*B.t.k.*) – will be applied between May 10 and June 10, depending on weather conditions and insect development. The virus and bacteria are naturally occurring agents and are specific to the tussock moth caterpillar and Lepidoptera larvae. Both agents are federally registered and regulated, and have no effect on other organisms.

The Douglas-fir tussock moth is a native species with caterpillars that consume Douglas-fir needles. Outbreaks can last up to four years and quickly spread to nearby areas, causing significant forest damage and tree mortality.

For more on the tussock moth, go to
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rsi/ForestHealth/Tussock_Moth.htm.

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