

Douglas-fir Tussock Moth Project
Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests
May - July 2000

Monitoring Recreational Experiences of National Forest Visitors during the Tussock Moth Spray Project

The public information plan included a variety of methods to inform the public about tussock moths in general and more specifically the timing of the spray project at recreation sites.

A one page information flyer was posted at all campgrounds, dispersed camping areas, trailheads, road junctions, and any other likely location within the spray project. This flyer was designed to answer general questions about the duration and location of the project. It also included first aid and health information about TM-BioControl. This flyer, the MSDS sheet, and a more detailed information handout were packaged in a litterbag and given to everyone contacted. About 300 litterbags were distributed.

Contacts with national forest visitors were made daily during the project. These contacts were made by campground hosts, law enforcement officials, entomology crews, district recreation techs, members of the project team, spray crew members, and district personnel.

When spray blocks were released, signs were posted announcing spray operations in area. These signs included health and safety information and a range of days the blocks were scheduled to be sprayed. The day the block was sprayed, signs were posted on the road near the spray operation. A series of campgrounds were sprayed over July 4. The potential for concern was mitigated by the work of the campground host the day before in notifying everyone who was in camp and the presence of the project IC and LEO during the actual spray operations. They were able to answer the questions and concerns of people who were woke up.

Informal monitoring conclusions: (made by talking to people making contacts)

- National forest visitors were not bothered by the spray operation.
- National forest visitors were curious about what the entomology crews were doing and why.
- Recreation users did not leave the area when they learned about the project.
- By accomplishing the project in early summer fewer number of visitors are in the area.