ANARCHIST MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY
FOREST INSPECTION – AUGUST 6, 2009

Concern was expressed that defoliating insects could be in the community area. The Anarchist Mountain Community Society, and Regal Ridge, shared in the cost to hire Eric Haupt, Forest Health Consultant to return to the Mountain. An inspection of various sites was done by Eric, with Mark McKenney accompanying him on August 6, 2009 to check for Western spruce budworm (WSBW) and Douglas fir tussock moth (DFTM). Both insects feed primarily on Douglas fir trees. Some pine trees were also examined for evidence of Western pine beetle (WPB) and Mountain pine beetle (MPB) as well.

Tussock Moth caterpillar – Bridesville

Sites visited were on Grizzly Place, Grizzly Road, Caribou Road, Wagon-wheel Rd, Townsite Road in Bridesville, Hwy 3 West of Bridesville, Kelly Road (Sidley), Sasquatch Pond area, Sasquatch Trail, Peregrine Court, and Blacktail Place.

In the Grizzly area, there was evidence of very light WSBW feeding on fir trees. At one residence on Grizzly Place, WPB was identified in 3 trees near the house, and 17 trees east of the resident's home The resident indicated he will cut the trees down and destroy them in the winter time to prevent the spread of WPB to more trees.

In the Caribou Road area, there is an area of defoliation within the western portion of the development. Moderate levels of WSBW foliage damage to Douglas fir has occurred in that area with evidence of lighter feeding in surrounding areas. Significant top damage has occurred especially to the smaller fir trees. Eric Haupf will give the landowner some advice as to options to control WSBW where action could occur in the spring 2010. Deciduous trees on Wagonwheel Road were mildly attacked. Not a real problem.

Western spruce budworm damaged fir

The real action is at Bridesville. There is a severe DFTM infestation happening in this community – which is about 15 KM east of Anarchist Mountain and 6 KM east of Sidley. Three 45 – 50 foot fir trees have been totally defoliated during the last 3 years. One blue spruce with severe top damage, was examined. Very large numbers of caterpillars were observed on the property as well as adjoining properties. Control measures have not been taken and it is too late to prevent complete damage to fir trees in this location. Some residents said they will cut down the remaining trees and burn them. One site – about 1 km east of Bridesville was examined with populations of DFTM larvae in spruce trees with moderate defoliation.

Defoliated trees - Bridesville

Tussock moth go after fir trees and really defoliate them. As can be seen in the picture on the left - the fir trees in Bridesville are completely defoliated and will eventually fall down if not cut down. Such trees become not only unsightly but a safety hazard to houses and residents.

Eric showed that one way to watch for DFTM is to identify their spoil from the eating of the foliage by the caterpillars. The photo below is what to look for quantities below the trees, or on bark.

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- **Eric Haupt, Forest Health Consultant returned to return to the Mountain for a Tussock Moth inspection on Aug 6**

- **There is a severe Tussock Moth infestation happening in Bridesville. Those trees are done for.**

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No tree problems were noted at the Kelly Road location or at Sasquatch Pond on Sasquatch Trail, except for some mild WPB and MPB attack. At a site on Sasquatch Trail we observed very light WSBW defoliation on fir trees.

At Peregrine Court and on Blacktail Place the consultant observed very light WSBW feeding on fir trees. Small number of DFTM larvae and cocoons on and adjacent to the home. Some other caterpillars were provided in a jar for identification and were subsequently identified as Redhumped caterpillars. On Blacktail Place, an owner reported large numbers of DFTM larvae on their home, in the yard and on fir trees. The owner advised that she killed thousands of the caterpillars already. There wasn't any noticeable evidence of DFTM feeding on the trees but they probably will cause defoliation next year. Very light WSBW feeding evident on fir trees.

Find cocoons - then destroy them

Insects that feed on conifer tree foliage are now present in the Anarchist Mountain area. Western spruce budworm is quite widespread and Douglas fir tussock moth was only observed in a few spots. Both insects in the larvae stage primarily feed on Douglas fir tree needles but occasionally do feed on other conifer needles to a much lesser extent.

Budworm has been in the Similkameen area for about five years and currently is present in many areas in the Okanagan. Infestations usually occur over large areas. The insect larvae mainly feed on Douglas fir needles. Eggs laid on needles is the overwintering stage. Successive years of insect feeding and population increase can result in significant defoliation particularly to the smaller trees under larger ones. The defoliation level in Anarchist Mountain community is very light in most areas with the heaviest observed being within the western portion of the Caribou Road development area.

- **Currently the defoliation level in the Anarchist Mountain community is very light so far**

Douglas fir tussock moth was noted at a few locations. There is a significant population resulting in heavy defoliation on several trees in the Bridesville area where the insects apparently have been for three years without any control measures undertaken. Tussock moth larvae were noted in a few locations within Regal Ridge area but no noticeable tussock moth caused defoliation was observed in the locations. The largest number of larvae were noted on Blacktail Road. Tussock moth populations usually build about every 12 years. There currently is a heavy infestation in various locations in the Okanagan with vicinity of Okanagan Falls and Glenmore area in north Kelowna being a couple of the locations. A virus usually develops in the population in within four years resulting in population collapse but severe defoliation could occur prior to the collapse.

- **Tussock Moth problem is close by, even confirmed as present on Anarchist Mountain and closing in on the Sidley area**

Tussock moth feed more than budworm which results in much heavier defoliation. The female tussock moth cannot fly so eggs are usually laid on the cocoon which she emerges from. Eggs are the overwintering stage.

The projected defoliation damage to Douglas fir trees next year from both insects will be dependent on the current population levels and resultant numbers of budworm and tussock moth eggs laid on the trees.

The Regal Ridge areas will be surveyed to determine the extent and levels of insect feeding in order to project potential defoliation levels next year and consider possible control measures that may be warranted. The Board of the Community Society discussed these findings and will follow up on any recommendations made by Eric Haupf for remedial action which he may recommend that could be taken either by individual residents and land owners or perhaps collectively as a Community. The Tussock Moth problem is close by, even confirmed as present on Anarchist Mountain and closing in on the Sidley area. Without action serious damage is likely to occur. We welcome our neighbours thoughts on this issue.