

Anything but DDT

EPA plan to kill the tussock moth-money and talk

By ERNIE CERESA

A day-long seminar to discuss the tussock moth problem was held by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Seattle, Nov. 16, with members of the U.S. Division of Forestry.

According to James Agee, EPA region administrator, "Discussion of the tussock moth problem remained on a scientific level. For example, the Audubon Society and a spokesman for the wood products industry—often conflicting interests—agreed to join in seeking additional research money."

The tussock moth in the caterpillar stage damages fir trees by eating their needles. It is now estimated that 690,000 acres in the states of Washington and Oregon and 125,000 acres in Idaho are infested with the moth. "Of the 690,000 acres infested, about 18,000 acres of timber have been heavily damaged," according to the EPA report.

This figure differs from the report of the U.S. Department of Forestry which show that 17,270 acres of timber are dead, with another 62,070 acres of the host type having over 50 per cent complete defoliation, and 275,660 acres with 50 per cent or more of the host type has at least the top quarter of the crown completely defoliated. Another 334,760 acres has defoliation visible from survey aircraft, with the current year's foliage removed on most trees but less than a quarter of the crown completely defoliated.

According to EPA reports of the meeting, other areas of research discussed at the seminar were: more information on the population dynamics of the moth itself; for example, what causes it to wax and wane in three-year cycles?

Additional field testing of several chemicals and biological pesticides which could provide effective moth control.

Improved survey methods for the moth: how can the severity of outbreaks be more accurately predicted.

Tree research: is it possible to vary the types and proximity of trees in an area to discourage tussock moth attacks?

Need for additional research money for personnel. More reliance on the research capabilities of universities in the Northwest.

The Forest Service was represented by Dave Graham, branch officer in charge of Insect and Disease Control; Dr. Bill Stevenson, assistant director of Forest Pest Control; and Dr. Robert Buckman, director of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station. Also present was State Forester Ed Schroeder, who expressed his concern about EPA's decision-making process. Schroeder discussed the mammoth task of having the state in the areas of rehabilitation and fire control, and commented on the undue burden the result of EPA's decision has placed on the private landowner.

Schroeder presented the seminar with a variety of questions troubling him about the EPA's decision-making process and organization as he faces the possibility of making another conditional request for the use of DDT. Henry Korp, deputy assistant administrator of EPA's office of pesticides programs, indicated that EPA would be contacting Schroeder privately in the future in hopes of clearing up these concerns.

Dr. Robert Harrison, Dow Chemicals, representing the National Chemical Agricultural Association, surprised

the entire seminar when he spoke in defense of the chemical Zectran, indicating that an improperly conducted field test last summer was the reason Zectran performed so poorly. DDT he maintained, would have been just as ineffective as Zectran had it been used and applied the same way.

Latest figures on damage to private lands caused by the tussock moth have been revised, showing that nine forest product companies have been seriously affected. They include, Boise Cascade, Collins Pine, Crown Zellerbach, Harris Pine, Joseph Timber, Louisiana Pacific, Ronde Valley Lumber, Valselt Lumber and Ellington Lumber. Holdings of 561 other individual owners have also been affected by the tussock moth infestation.

The survey defines 106,316 acres of private land as being infested for the purpose of the rehabilitation survey. Of this area, 84,928 acres are defined as seriously damaged and the remaining 21,387 acres of private land will need some type of rehabilitation treatment; namely, fire hazard reduction, reforestation, site preparation, cutting and or salvage of timber.

Dollar devaluation puts church work in jeopardy

Seventh-day Adventist reaction to a devalued dollar will be reflected in the church's World Service Appeal this year.

Robert R. Youngberg, Heppner Adventist pastor, explained that an increase in the goal has been necessary to compensate for the loss in the buying power of the U.S. dollar.

This Friday is the date set to launch the campaign, which is designed to help people become acquainted with the worldwide ministries of the church, as well as to raise funds for their support.

These funds represent only a small part of the church's world budget, Youngberg explained. But they help support such services as hospitals, schools, camps for underprivileged children, and similar projects besides relief in time of large-scale disasters. A portion of the funds received remains in Heppner, and anyone needing help is invited to contact the local Adventist church, or one of its members.

The Tussock Moth Control Association and a California legal firm, the Pacific Legal Foundation, have filed suit against the Environmental Protection Agency in U.S. District Court in Portland, demanding it be ordered to authorize the use of DDT to control the tussock moth.

The groups charge the EPA is violating the National Environmental Policy act by failing to authorize the use of DDT. The TMCA said the suit would be dropped if EPA approves the use of DDT this spring.

current annual cut on private lands in Baker, Union, Wallowa, and Umatilla counties of 72 million board feet. In addition, about 30 miles of new road construction are needed per thousand acre harvested, which will tend to reduce the total board feet of timber actually salvaged.

Horses, jeeps, snowmobiles and all other manner of conveyances used to get surveyors into the tussock moth area have been retired for another year. The raw data from the egg mass survey has been collected and

is being compiled, with results available early in December. The USFS has indicated that it would probably request permission from the EPA for emergency use of the pesticide DDT against the tussock moth if the egg mass count so indicates.

EPA announced that it would hold hearings on such a request. The tentative schedule for these hearings, in which all interested persons are invited to participate, is Jan. 14, Portland; Jan. 15, Seattle; Jan. 16, Boise, Idaho; and Jan. 18, Washington, D.C.

Additional 74 million board feet of undamaged timber would be removed in the harvest operations. However, 20 per cent of this volume runs less than 2,500 board feet per acre and may not be economically salvagable. This volume compares with a



YOU FELLOWS ARENT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS.

which funds have been received to assist the church in its humanitarian work. The annual appeal gives non-members an opportunity to help to whatever extent they desire.

Tree cutting permits now on sale

Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest announces that 1973 Christmas tree permits are now on sale for \$1 per tree.

Permits can be obtained at the district office in the Lott-Rasmussen Addition from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. As in past years, the office will also be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8 and 15.

Five areas have again been designated on the district for Christmas tree cutting, and appropriate maps and instructions will be provided to all permit holders.

You're invited to attend 2nd Annual Artefactory Saturday, Dec. 1

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Degree of Honor Lodge

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Irene Swanson

12:30 Candle Making and Books
Linda Johnson

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Nancy Cox Holden
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Mabel Heath

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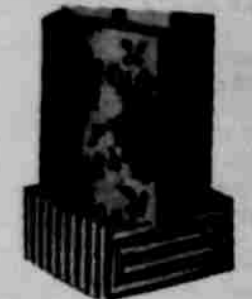
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Gene Robinson is our trust representative for Heppner. If you have questions about anything relating to trust and estate management, Gene can help. He'll discuss with you the various trust programs available as well as our estate management services. Together, you can choose the management program that's best for you and your family.

Gene will be at the Heppner branch on Thursday, December 6. We hope you'll call the branch and make an appointment to talk with Gene. His advice is backed by more than a century of financial experience. And that means better service for you.

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