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**SATIN MOTH OUTBREAK IN THE
BOUNDARY FOREST DISTRICT**

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SUMMARY

Recent severe defoliation of trembling aspen in the Anarchist Mountain to Bridesville areas, and to a lesser extent northeast of Grand Forks, was caused by the satin moth, Leucoma salicis. Larvae are currently late instar or pupating, a flight of the large white moths (3 to 5 cm wingspan) will occur in July. There is one generation per year.

This European defoliator was accidentally introduced to B.C. in 1920 and first collected in the Nelson Forest Region at Needles in 1963. Several outbreaks have since occurred in the region; defoliation was recorded in the Bridesville area in 1964 and 1984-86. Most trees will recover with a second flush of foliage this summer; significant dieback and mortality usually only occurs after repeated defoliation.

Further information about the extent and area of defoliation will be available after aerial surveys in July. A larval mass collection is being reared to determine parasite and disease levels. Introduced parasites, a native bacterium and fungus have helped reduce some satin moth outbreaks.