



News Release

Forest Service

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Public Scoping Period Open for the Little Red Goose Forest Resiliency Project - Closes October 21

New Meadows, ID, September 20, 2019 – The Payette National Forest is seeking public comment on the Little Red Goose Forest Resiliency Project on the New Meadows Ranger District of the Payette National Forest.

A recent USDA Forest Health and Protection report identified the need to “adequately address the [Douglas-fir tussock moth](#) outbreak” currently impacting the proposed Little Red Goose project area. This project area is 8,800 acres in the Little Salmon River subbasin in Upper Goose Creek, Sixmile Creek, and Lower Goose Creek between McCall and New Meadows. According to the report, this area is also being impacted by the [western spruce budworm](#), [Balsam woolly adelgid](#), [mistletoe](#), and [root and butt rots](#) which is compounding the effect on trees in the area.

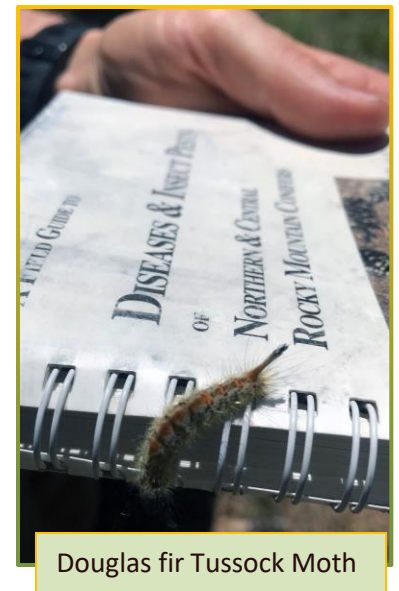
“In order to quickly address this insect outbreak and the impacts to our forest, this project would focus vegetation treatments in the areas of high insect activity and tree mortality, as well as adjacent stands that are at risk,” said Erin Phelps, News Meadows District Ranger. “Treatments would be designed to increase the resiliency of the remaining trees and also to reduce hazard tree risk to forest visitors and infrastructure found in the Goose Creek area along roadways and the Last Chance Campground.”

Proposed treatments would occur on up to 3,000 acres identified within the larger 8,800-acre area with activities including commercial thinning, non-commercial thinning, commercial firewood removal, slash treatments (lop and scatter or pile burning), and broadcast prescribed burning.

“We recognized a need to focus our efforts and do what we can to give the area a chance to bounce back from the high stressors related to insects and disease,” added Phelps.

A preliminary assessment of the project has determined it falls within a Categorical Exclusion as authorized by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, specially section 603 regarding insect and disease to reduce the extent of, or increase resilience. This project will adhere to the specifications of that authority.

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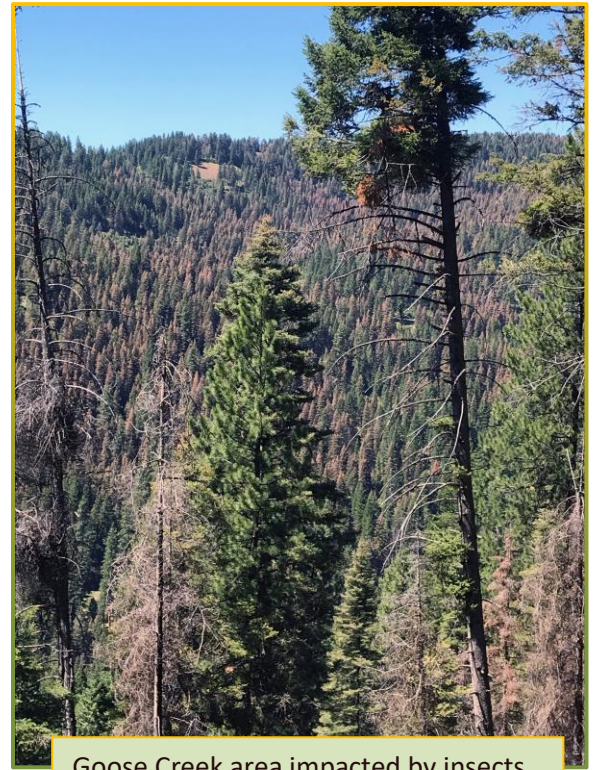
Douglas fir Tussock Moth



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Interested parties should submit issues pertinent to this proposal in writing by October 21, 2019. Comments will help inform the environmental analysis and decision making process. For more information on the project, including more details on the proposal and how to comment, visit the Little Red Goose project webpage at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56833>. The Forest Service will also host a public meeting on the Little Red Goose project October 9 at 6:30 p.m. Details on the meeting, including location, will be posted on the project webpage.

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Goose Creek area impacted by insects.