



# DO NOT TOUCH!

## Allergic Reaction May Occur



### Douglas-Fir Tussock Moth Allergy Risk

Douglas-Fir Tussock Moth are experiencing a rise in outbreak on this forest. The caterpillars have thousands of tiny hairs covering its body. The female moths, egg masses, and cocoons also have hairs. Tussockosis can occur as an allergic reaction from direct contact with insect or airborne hairs. Symptoms may include itchiness, skin rashes, skin irritation, watery eyes, runny nose, and sneezing. More severe reactions, though less common, include blisters, coughing, shortness of breath, wheezing, and chest tightness. Tussockosis severity may vary between individuals, by the amount of exposure, and the level of the outbreak. Everyone should avoid touching or handling this insect. If contact does occur, immediately wash the area of exposure. If symptoms become severe or problematic, immediately seek medical care.



### Moth Impact on Affected Trees

The caterpillar primarily feeds on needles of Douglas-fir and white fir often resulting in severe defoliation damage, which is sometimes followed by top-kill and subsequent attacks by bark beetles.

For more information about  
this species, visit:  
[www.fs.usda.gov/goto/TussockMoth](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/TussockMoth)

