

Satin moths damaging aspens near Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe area aspen trees have been defoliated due to an influx of invasive white satin moths.

The white satin moth is a non-native defoliator of aspen, cottonwoods, willows and other deciduous species. Continued defoliation can threaten aspen stands, which provide important habitat for a variety of native species.

The Nevada Tahoe Resource Team – which consists of representatives from several divisions within the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (the Nevada Division of Forestry, the Nevada Division of State Parks, and the Nevada Division of State Lands) and the Nevada Department of Wildlife recently engaged UNR and the Tahoe Institute for Natural Science to perform in-depth research studies and data analysis. They are conducting two multi-year studies that will be used to guide future management decisions in support of a thriving natural environment.

Anyone who see a white satin moths or areas damaged by these insects, is asked to call 775.849.2500, ext. 241. This is so scientists may track and monitor their locations.