



Information Bulletin

CP2005-Date

PUBLIC NOTICE

PANP Continues Program to Protect Trees in Waskesiu

WASKESIU, SASKATCHEWAN, May 2005

With significant input from public, Prince Albert National Park (PANP) decided to spray Foray 48B to control spruce budworm and protect over 40,000 trees within the community in 2003 and 2004. Prince Albert National Park will continue its commitment to protect the health of these trees in Waskesiu in 2005. The goal of this third year of the three-year spray program is to further improve the health of the spruce trees and reduce the need for multi-year cycles of spraying in the future.

The BioForest Technologies Inc.'s report, *Results of the 2004 Aerial Spray Program Against the Eastern Spruce Budworm in Prince Albert National Park* indicates that the spray program is effective and that spraying in 2005 will further improve white spruce health in Waskesiu. Studies show that the spruce budworm is in decline. Despite this, it is necessary to take steps to protect the trees in Waskesiu in 2005. Research indicates that generally, trees will experience severe impact during a spruce budworm outbreak if they receive nine or more consecutive years of severe defoliation. If, in the middle of this outbreak, a period of two or three consecutive years of light defoliation can be attained, the trees could withstand up to 12 years of severe defoliation with only moderate impact. By spraying in 2005 we aim to achieve a low defoliation rate for a second consecutive year which will better able to withstand prolonged future severe defoliation.

The BioForest report showed spraying and cool, wet weather has reduced the 2004 defoliation of Waskesiu's white spruce trees to 7% in 2004, versus 64% in 2003. In the untreated plots, the defoliation it was reduced to 17% in 2004 versus 81% in 2003. These defoliation rates exceed the provincial operational target of 40%. White spruce in the townsites have a significantly higher proportion of living tops (69%) as compared to those in untreated plots (45%).

The spray window may begin as early as the end of May 2005 and will include two spray applications. The second intended spray date will occur two to five days following the first date. Public notices will be issued 24 hours prior to both spray applications and following each application. Should weather conditions be unfavorable, each subsequent day will be considered until the spraying occurs.

A thorough environmental assessment into the health and environmental impact of spraying was conducted in 2003 and concluded that there are no significant, irremediable, adverse impacts. The active ingredient in Foray 48B, *Bacillus thuringiensis, kurstaki* (BtK), is a naturally occurring soil bacteria known to kill moths and butterflies. Regulatory authorities in Canada, the United States and at the World Health Organization agree that BtK can be used safely in residential areas. BtK is also used directly on organically grown food crops, has been used safely throughout the world for over 30 years and does not affect other animals, plants, soils or drinking water.

Throughout the program, BioForest Technologies Inc. monitored the budworm and white spruce tree development, budworm populations and tree defoliation in both treated and untreated plots.

Visit www.bioforest.ca to review their recent report or contact the park at (306) 663-4501 to obtain a copy.

-30-

Information:

Carla Flaman, Communications Manager
Prince Albert National Park
(306) 663-4565