

Adult



Pandora Moth

Eggs



Pandora moth defoliates pines in the West where trees grow on loose soils that allow caterpillars to bury themselves for pupation. Damage occurs primarily in odd years (2009, 2011) due to the insect's 2-year life cycle. Outbreaks happen on a 20 to 30 year or longer cycle and last for a period of 4 to 8 years.

Pandora moth populations are increasing in ponderosa pine stands near Jacob Lake on the North Kaibab Ranger District. Although considerable defoliation occurs during outbreaks, mortality is primarily confined to trees heavily infected with dwarf mistletoe. Severe defoliation may reduce visual quality for forest visitors and the numerous caterpillars and moths can be detrimental to recreational experiences.

Previous infestations have been recorded on the North Kaibab. About 30,000 acres were defoliated during the last outbreak in the 1980s, but less than 1% mortality was seen in ponderosa pine. A naturally occurring virus caused the outbreak to collapse.



For more information visit

www.fs.fed.us/r3/resources/health
www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/fidls/fidl-114.pdf



Pupae



Caterpillar

