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# Arizona State Forestry Division

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## Forest Health Alert Update on Pine Sawfly Infestation in Summerhaven August 2013

The sawfly population identified feeding on ponderosa pines by the homeowners in Loma Sabino in the Catalina Mountains in 2012, continued to expand in 2013. It has now spread throughout most of Summerhaven and covers about 265 acres. A smaller pocket was identified down by the Butterfly Trailhead and Sunset Trail/East Sykes Knob turnoffs (see attached map). In addition, the number of colonies of sawflies identified feeding on individual pines has increased significantly in most areas. Defoliation of mainly understory or smaller trees is very noticeable. Larger overstory trees are less defoliated, but this may change as the insect continues to feed and increase in numbers.

However, this is normal for a new population of sawflies on ponderosa pine. The insect eruption eventually peaks after about five to six years, and then returns to endemic (normal) levels.



Mortality of understory trees may occur and occasionally an overstory tree may die from the annual defoliation. But overall mortality for this defoliator is low regardless of the tree size.

There is currently a large population of sawflies feeding on ponderosa pines in the Kendrick Mountain area northwest of Flagstaff, burned by the Pumpkin Fire in 2000. The population was first identified in 2009. The elevation and vegetation is comparable to Summerhaven and the sawflies were still active at the end of July 2013.

Prior to 2009 another ponderosa pine sawfly outbreak was detected in 2007 east of Heber-Overgaard in an area burned by the Rodeo-Chediski Fire in 2002. The eruption which could be seen along highway 260 lasted through 2011.

All of the recent and ongoing populations of sawflies seem to prefer open-grown stands, burned by forest fires.



Sawfly populations are controlled by spring and summer storms, parasitic flies and wasps, predacious insects, viruses and rodents that dig up and destroy cocoons.

A few caterpillars on small trees can be handpicked and properly disposed of, or a high pressure hose can be used to wash them off.

Chemical control of the caterpillars is available for understory trees and is most effective on the younger caterpillars. Treatment of larger overstory trees is usually unnecessary.

Additional information about sawflies can be found at the following links:

[http://www.ncrcd.org/files/3913/5837/3018/Diprionid Sawflies on Lodgepole and Ponderosa Pines.pdf](http://www.ncrcd.org/files/3913/5837/3018/Diprionid_Sawflies_on_Lodgepole_and_Ponderosa_Pines.pdf)

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/resources/health/field-guide/pdf/FID-PineSawflies.pdf>.

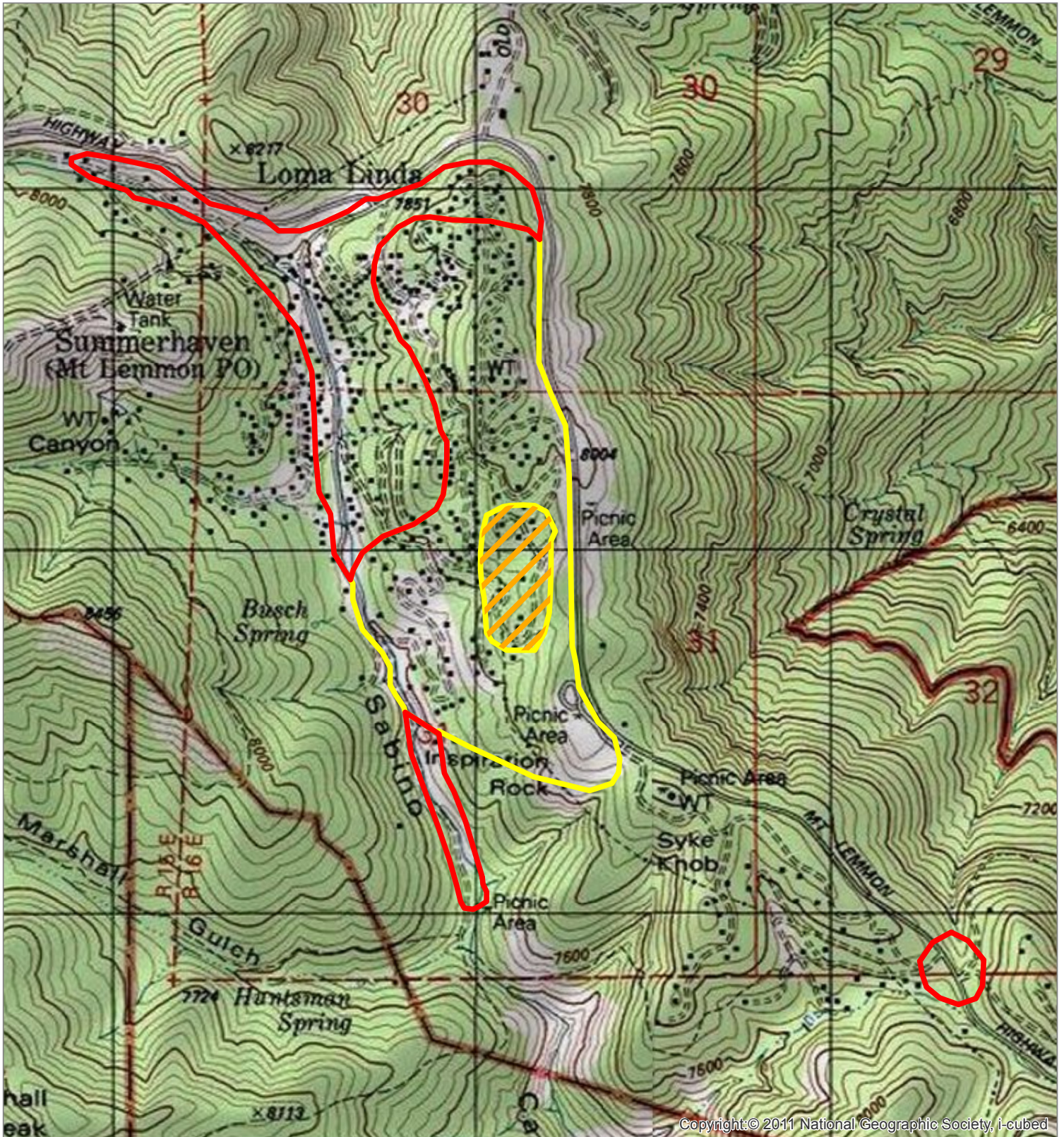
[http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5347774.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5347774.pdf)




<http://sdda.sd.gov/legacydocs/Forestry/publications/PDF/Ponderosa-Pine-Sawfly-Pest-Bulletin.pdf>

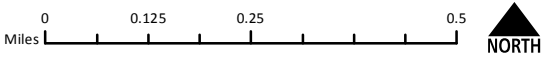
And for further information about this insect, or other forest health concerns in your area, contact: Bob Celaya, Forest Health Specialist, Office of the State Forester (602) 771-1415 or Mayra Moreno-Parrish, Assistant Fire Management Officer in Tucson, at (520) 628-5480 x205



# Pine Sawfly Population - Summerhaven, AZ



-  Sawfly Defoliation Epicenter (Light-Heavy) - 18 acres
-  2012 Sawfly Defoliation - 152 acres
-  2013 Sawfly Defoliation - 112 acres



Map Created by:  
Office of the Arizona State Forester  
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The Arizona State Forestry Division makes no warranties, implied or expressed, with respect to information shown on this map.

Map Projection/Datum:  
NAD 1983 HARN / UTM Zone 12N