

Sustainable Forest Management

2014 Facts & Statistics

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Agriculture and Forestry

Gypsy Moth

Gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) is one of the most serious introduced pests of tree species in Canada. It prefers to feed on the leaves of oak trees, which are not native to Alberta's forests. However, it can damage and kill other deciduous tree species, such as maple, alder, birch, poplar, cherry, plum, willow, and many other tree and shrub species in Alberta.

Gypsy moth is not currently established in Alberta. However, annual surveys are conducted to detect the presence of gypsy moth. The department assists the Canadian Food Inspection Agency by setting up tent-shaped traps, known as Delta traps (Figure 1), with the synthetic female gypsy moth's sex pheromone lures (attractants) to attract gypsy moth males. In the summer, these Delta traps are set up in areas of high public use, such as campgrounds. If a moth is captured, the site can be monitored closely and appropriate action can be taken.

Figure 1. A Delta trap used for gypsy moth



Photo courtesy of: Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Statistics

As shown in Table 1, 74 traps were set up by the department on Alberta public land in 2014. Unlike 2013, one gypsy moth was recorded in

2014. Figure 2 shows a map of gypsy moth trap survey locations in 2014.

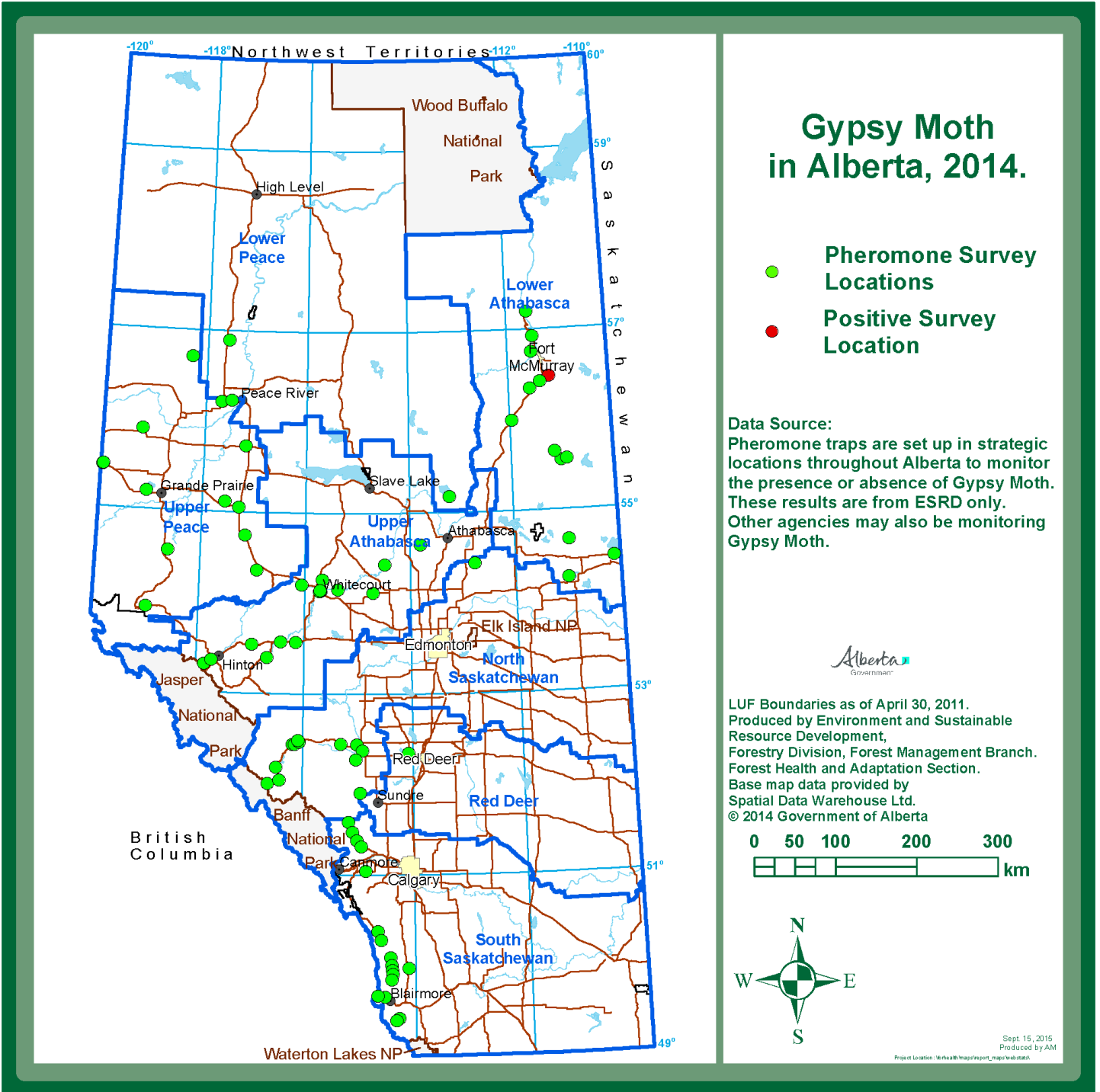
Table 1. Results of gypsy moth surveys carried out by using pheromone-baited traps on Alberta public land, 2014¹

Land-use Framework Planning Region	Number of traps set up	Average moths per trap
Lower Athabasca	13	1
Lower Peace	2	0
North Saskatchewan	13	0
South Saskatchewan	17	0
Upper Athabasca	14	0
Upper Peace	14	0
Red Deer	1	0
Provincial Total	74	.01

¹Preliminary results.

Statistics cont'd

Figure 2. Locations of ASRD gypsy moth survey sites in 2014



Historical Trends

None of the traps placed by the department on Alberta public land have ever detected the presence of gypsy moth. However, some

municipalities (Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat) have recorded gypsy moths in their traps.

Future Outlook

The department will continue to place the traps in high public-use locations in forested areas. Increased movement of people and equipment

into Alberta will increase the likelihood of introduction of this species. Figure 4 shows the significant damage caused by gypsy moths.

Figure 4. Examples of the damage (left) caused by gypsy moth young larvae feeding (right)



Photos courtesy of:
Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

