



July 5, 2016

Community Update: Why aren't there leaves on some of our aspen?

Recently, Newmont CC&V's environmental department noticed that the aspen trees in several locations around Cripple Creek and Victor, Colorado, were not producing as many leaves as expected for the early summer season. The following photo of Bull Hill, north of Victor, on the northeast side of CC&V's mining operation, was taken near the end of June. Notice that many of the aspen trees in this grove seem to be barren of leaves.



On closer inspection, CC&V's environment department found an insect infestation of what are commonly called "tent caterpillars", and requested an investigation and opinion from the Colorado State Forest Service.



The Colorado State Forest Service’s site visit and investigation on June 30, 2016, sampled six sites around the area and their Insect Observation Report identified “a sizable population of large aspen tortrix (LAT) in five locations... We also observed significant aphid activity in locations associated with the LAT. It is also worth noting significant populations of lady bird beetle (commonly known as lady bugs) larva and adults, as well as significant populations of spiders, this makes sense due to the food source available.”

Gary Horton, Sr. Environmental Coordinator for CC&V described the situation this way: “The large aspen tortrix, commonly called a “tent caterpillar”, is a defoliator and quickly eats all the leaves off the aspens. It is particularly acute on the north side of Victor Pass and in Grassy Valley right now. The caterpillars should be turning into moths in another week or two and fly off. The good news is that the moths don’t harm the bud of the aspen and they should have leaves back on them later this summer; however, the trees will be lacking in density of leaves and they will be smaller than usual. It’s conjectured that the abnormally high evening temperatures may have contributed to an unusually large outbreak of LAT. We can expect this type of thing to continue up here for another couple years according to our research.”

That’s why some of our aspens don’t have leaves.

For additional information about this update, or if you have questions about our responsible mining operations, please do not hesitate to contact: Brad Poulson, Communications Specialist, 719-689-4052, email at: [Brad.Poulson@Newmont.com](mailto:Brad.Poulson@Newmont.com); or Lisa Becker, External Relations Manager, 719-689-4044; email at: [Lisa.Becker@Newmont.com](mailto:Lisa.Becker@Newmont.com).