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PEST REPORT

Pacific Forestry Centre • 506 West Burnside Rd. • Victoria, B.C. • V8Z 1M5

August, 1986

Special Report

Status of Spruce Beetle on the Haines Road
Prince Rupert Region, July 1986

R. Garbutt
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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Following the spruce beetle infestation and subsequent eradication program carried out by Public Works Canada in 1983, there has been little evidence of spruce beetle activity near the B.C.-Alaska border on the Haines Road. In 1986, however, during the course of FIDS annual Yukon survey, at least 17 standing and 3 felled, 1984-attacked trees were found, which could signal the start of a renewed problem. Limited surveys found only one current strip attack; more intensive surveys are scheduled for 1987.

Beginning at the B.C.-Alaska border and proceeding north, recently killed trees were seen:

1. At Km 1.4 on the upper side of the road a single large diameter standing lightly attacked beetle-killed spruce with a typical yellow-orange crown was examined. Fresh boring dust near the root collar suggested that the beetles had recently flown. A few beetles, apparently pre-flight, remained under the bark.
2. At Km 4.3 on the low side of the Highway one tree was partially attacked in 1983 and re-attacked and killed in 1984. Attacks were distributed above and below breast height. Boring dust was again evident at the root collar indicating a recent flight. Three trees that appeared to have been felled at this location during the eradication program but had not been peeled, had also been attacked in 1984.
3. At Km 8.6, about 15, 1984-attacked trees were seen down over the bank 100+ m from the highway on both sides of a small unnamed creek. One tree contained larvae and pupae in a narrow strip, possibly from a 1985 attack. Another contained a strip of healthy current (1986) attack on the NW side of the tree but was otherwise unattacked. No other current attacks were seen in the other 12 trees examined.

Further surveys this year are not recommended. A survey in 1987 after newly attacked trees have faded will be done by FIDS. If a significant number of 1986 attacks have been successful, it may be necessary to repeat the eradication program, though likely on a much smaller scale.