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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY

# PEST REPORT

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

7 August, 1972

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE INFESTATIONS IN THE KITWANGA

AND KISPLOX RIVER AREAS, AUGUST 1972

Richard J. Andrews and Robert D. Erickson

Surveys in 1971 indicated increased populations of the mountain pine beetle in lodgepole pine stands within the Kitwanga and Hazelton Ranger Districts. An aerial survey on 31 July, 1972, corroborated this.

Infestations in the Kitwanga Ranger District are dispersed from Seeley Lake along both sides of the Skeena River to Andimaul and north along the Kitwanga and Cranberry rivers to Weigert Creek. Infestations along the Kisplox River of the Hazelton District begin south of Kisplox Village and occur in patches of from 20 to 250 trees, north along the Kisplox River to Kline Lake.

The attached map illustrates the locations of infested groups of lodgepole pine and the approximate number of trees infested.

In the aerial survey the counts of dying pine trees are of those attacked the previous year or two. Trees attacked in 1972 were not detectable from the air since they will not discolor until the following spring. Ground surveys therefore are required to complete the picture of overall attack.

