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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY **PEST REPORT**

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

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TWO-YEAR-CYCLE SPRUCE BUDWORM OUTBREAK IN

THE EAST NELSON DISTRICT

Jack Monts

An outbreak of two-year-cycle spruce budworm, Choristoneura biennis, has caused moderate and occasionally severe defoliation of alpine fir and Engelmann spruce trees west of Canal Flats in the North White River Valley. Heavy larval populations have stripped up to 100% of the current foliage of understory and pole-sized trees. Occasional alpine fir saplings have been completely defoliated. The lower crowns of mature trees have been lightly defoliated. The infestation, approximately six miles long and two miles wide, is restricted to an ellipse-shaped mature Engelmann spruce-alpine fir stand at 5,000 feet elevation.

Beating samples from alpine fir and Engelmann spruce contained 650 and 275 larvae respectively. A larval collection sent to the Insect Pathology Research Institute at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, in June, was found to contain "y" virus which may reduce the larval population to an undetermined degree.