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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY

# PEST REPORT

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

November 17, 1972.

## WESTERN HEMLOCK LOOPER IN THE NELSON FOREST DISTRICT 1972

E. V. Morris and J. S. Monts

In 1972 the western hemlock looper, Lambdina fiscellaria lugubrosa increased to moderate to high larval population levels in the mature and overmature hemlock-cedar forests in the wet belt areas of the District. The largest numbers of larvae were found along the Upper Arrow Lake, from Arrow Park to Revelstoke, and along the Big Bend Highway from Revelstoke to Boat Encampment. Light defoliation was observed during August on western red cedar and western hemlock.

During September large moth flights were observed at Nakusp, Revelstoke, Downie Creek and Mica Creek. Egg sampling in late September indicated a moderate to high overwintering egg population on old man's beard and the bark of western red cedar and western hemlock, at Mica Creek, Goldstream River and Downie Creek, and a light egg population at Kuskanax Creek near Nakusp.

If the climate is favorable to the insect during the winter and spring of 1973, moderate to severe defoliation can be expected along the Big Bend Highway, with light defoliation along the Upper Arrow Lake.