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PEST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

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SPRUCE BUDWORM IN THE MAINLAND SECTION OF VANCOUVER

FOREST DISTRICT, 1972

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Aerial surveys of Douglas-fir stands in the mainland section of the Vancouver Forest District in August showed that infestations of spruce budworm, Choristoneura occidentalis, expanded from 28,000 acres in 1971 to more than 43,000 in 1972.

The most notable expansion of the infestations occurred at Rutherford Creek southwest of Pemberton, along Blackwater and Haylemore creeks and Gates River near Anderson Lake and along the Sumallo River. Infestations along Anderson and Seton lakes in the neighboring Kamloops District also increased in extent.

New infestations were recorded in the Fraser Canyon as far north as Boston Bar and at Cheakamus Lake northeast of Squamish. The latter infestation is in an alpine fir stand.

Foliage damage was generally light to moderate but a few patches of heavy defoliation occurred at Rutherford and Haylemore creeks in the Pemberton-Anderson Lake area, at Spuzzum and Tsileuh creeks in the Fraser Canyon and along the Sumallo River near Tashme. Defoliation in many areas extended above 4,000 feet elevation.

Egg sampling will be conducted in the infested areas during August in order to predict 1973 budworm populations. Details on the degree of current defoliation will also be taken at that time.