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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY **PEST REPORT**

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

June 18, 1973.

ASPEN DEFOLIATION IN PRINCE GEORGE FOREST DISTRICT

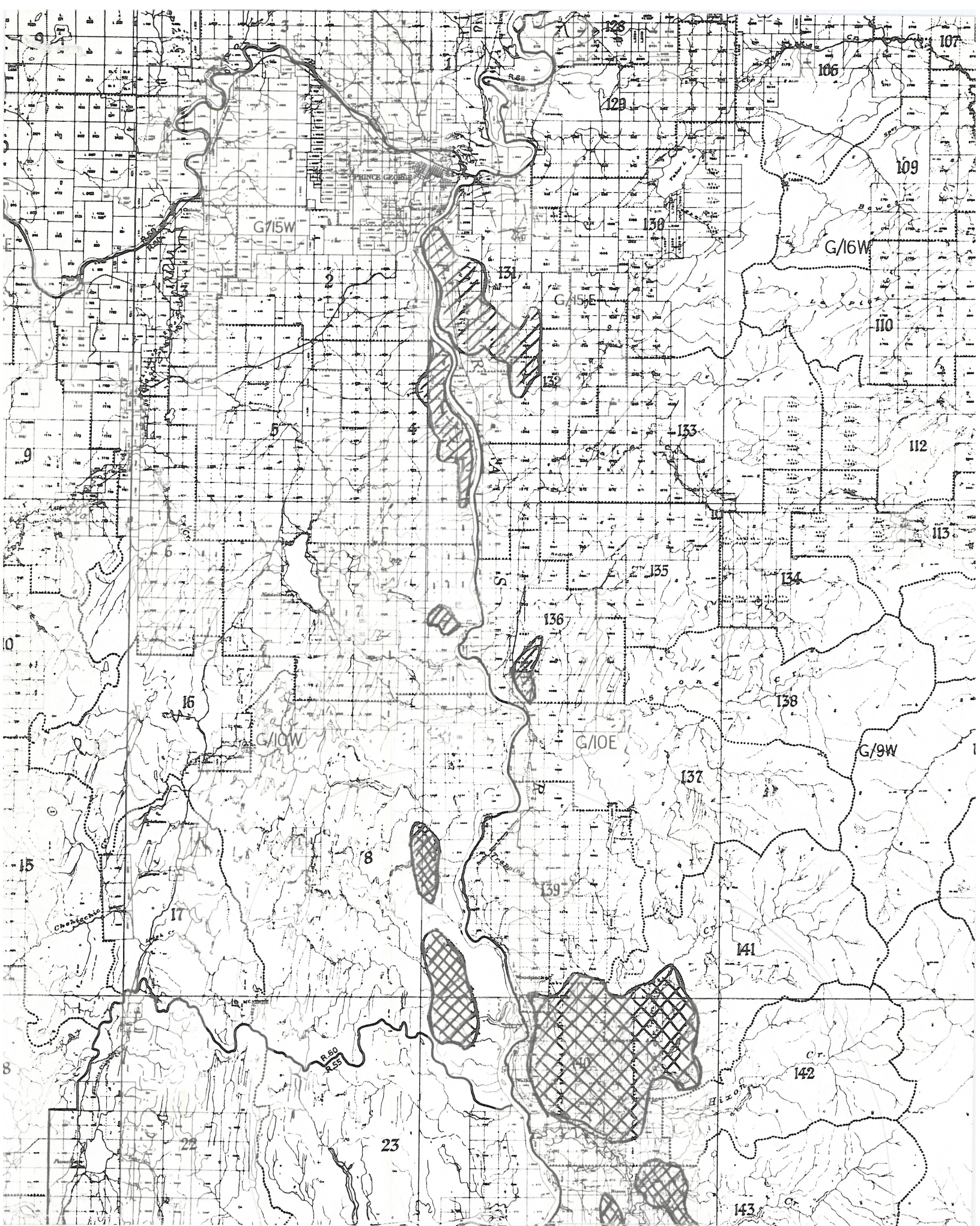
Stan J. Allen

The forest tent caterpillar, Malacosoma disstria, defoliated trembling aspen stands east and south of Prince George in 1973. The areas of severest defoliation were from the microwave tower north of Hixon to Ahbau Station where most of the trembling aspen trees have been denuded. East of Prince George, defoliation is noticeable in the McBride area from Clyde Creek to Horsey Creek and from Tete Jaune Cache to Mount Robson Station. The infestation extends from base levels to 2,600 feet in the areas south of Prince George; it extends as high as 4,000 feet in the Mount Teare area north of McBride and in the Mount Robson area.

By June 6, almost 80% of the trembling aspen trees in the areas indicated on the attached map were up to 100% defoliated. Willow and other deciduous species were also heavily attacked.

Larval development is ahead of normal due to the warm dry periods during the early part of May, and most larvae appeared to be in third to fifth instars.

Some of the aspen defoliation was the combined work of forest tent caterpillar and the large aspen tortrix, Choristoneura conflictana, however between Prince George and Stoner most aspen defoliation was by the large aspen tortrix larvae.



June 6, 1973

 Forest Tent Caterpillar

defoliation

 Large Aspen tortrix

