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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY
PEST REPORT

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

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DOUGLAS-FIR TUSSOCK MOTH INFESTATIONS

IN THE OKANAGAN VALLEY

Cliff B. Cottrell

Larval populations of the Douglas-fir tussock moth increased greatly in 1973 in the North Okanagan, near Vernon, Oyama, Winfield, and in the Glenmore district of Kelowna. By mid-June, 1973, over 50% of the new foliage of immature and semi-mature Douglas-fir trees had been consumed. As this large population continues to feed on the new and old foliage during the summer, additional top-killing and tree mortality is expected. In areas where trees have been heavily defoliated for two or more years, small pockets of trees have been killed.

This pest has defoliated Douglas-fir trees, including small numbers of ponderosa pine, in widely scattered areas in the Okanagan and Shuswap valleys since 1970. By 1972, there were more than 40 known outbreaks from 1 to 50 acres, and one infestation at Kilpoola Lake near Osoyoos of approximately 1,000 acres. Most Douglas-fir tussock moth populations in the South Okanagan have declined.

A recent survey in the Similkameen Valley indicated that although larvae are present near Hedley, populations remain light.