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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY **PEST REPORT**

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

June 25, 1973.

WESTERN FALSE HEMLOCK LOOPER IN THE SHUSWAP AND OKANAGAN VALLEYS

Cliff Cottrell

In 1972 the western false hemlock looper caused moderate to severe defoliation of Douglas-fir in 20 areas covering approximately 3,200 acres in the vicinity of Salmon Arm and Enderby. Where defoliation was particularly heavy, such as near White Lake, Sunnybrae, Gleneden and Canoe, some top-killing and tree mortality has occurred. Although looper populations declined in some of the infestations, adjacent areas have been attacked in 1973, notably west of Sunnybrae, north of Gleneden and for two miles between Grindrod Junction and Enderby. By mid-June the upper crowns of trees were defoliated, and as larval development and feeding progresses through June and July, severe defoliation is expected.

In the North Okanagan, populations increased to near epidemic levels around Kalamalka and Wood lakes and on the west side of Okanagan Lake from O'Keefe to Fintry. Noticeable defoliation may occur in 1973 in small scattered pockets.

Large numbers of larvae have also been noted north of Squilax.

To date, attacks have been confined to almost pure stands of immature and semi-mature Douglas-fir growing on dry sites.