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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY **PEST REPORT**

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

July 3, 1973.

A BLACK ARMY CUTWORM INFESTATION

NEAR GOLDEN, B.C.

Jack Monts

The black army cutworm, Actebia fennica, defoliated Engelmann spruce seedlings in plantations established on the site of the 1971 "Sue" fire at Blackwater Ridge. The cutworm larvae devoured most of the ground cover including fireweed and willow on an estimated 250 acres. Defoliation of the spruce seedlings appears to have followed defoliation of the deciduous ground cover.

The seedlings at lower elevations have suffered as much as 40% loss of foliage. An average of 25% of these trees bore damaged terminal buds. Damage was lighter along the upper slopes of Blackwater Ridge.

A moderate infestation of western tent caterpillar, Malacosoma californicum pluviale, over much of the area further reduced the foliage of the ground cover.

The black army cutworm is in the pupal stage, a resting stage. Further study of this epidemic should be considered before fall planting in the infested area.