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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY **PEST REPORT**

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

June 22, 1973.

FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR INFESTATIONS

NEAR GOLDEN, B. C.

Jack Monts

The forest tent caterpillar, Malacosoma disstria, caused moderate to severe defoliation of trembling aspen and black cottonwood in patches from Donald south along the Columbia River to Radium Hot Springs. Near McMurdo, trembling aspen on 250 acres were almost completely defoliated.

The insect is presently in the late larval stage and feeding is almost completed for the year. Large hairy caterpillars may be seen in large numbers crawling on the bare branches and stems of defoliated trees.

Larvae will pupate shortly and a large flight of brown moths may be expected in mid-July.

Defoliation of deciduous trees does not generally cause mortality, but repeated attacks may cause dead tops and limbs. Defoliated trees should refoliate during the summer.