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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY
PEST REPORT

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

July 23, 1973.

FILAMENT BEARER INFESTATIONS IN THE TROUT LAKE - FERGUSON AREA

NELSON FOREST DISTRICT

Ernie V. Morris

Larval populations of a looper, the filament bearer Nematocampa filamentaria, are abundant in many of the western hemlock stands in the Trout Lake - Ferguson area. Larval beating samples from understory western hemlock trees have produced up to 800 larvae south of Trout Lake Townsite, and 500 larvae near Ferguson. Numerous hemlock sawfly larvae have also been found in the looper-infested areas.

Filament bearer feeding to date has been most evident on the understory hemlock and deciduous trees and shrubs, where moderate defoliation has occurred. Foliage of the overstory hemlock is starting to discolor and should become more evident as larval feeding progresses.

Filament bearer larvae are also commonly found in areas where the hemlock looper is abundant along the Columbia River north of Revelstoke and along the Upper Arrow Lake.

Western hemlock stands along Kuskanax Creek near Nakusp where filament bearer larvae were numerous in 1971 and 1972 now carry reduced larval populations.

In the past this insect has not been considered an important pest.