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## FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY **PEST REPORT**

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

July 20, 1973.

### LARCH BUDMOTH INFESTATION NELSON FOREST DISTRICT

Ernie V. Morris

The larch budmoth, Zeiraphera improbana (Wlk.), has caused moderate to heavy defoliation of western larch stands above 3,500 feet elevation, along the Inonoaklin Valley from two miles west of Inonoaklin Crossing to Edgewood, along the east side of Arrow Lake from Applegrove to McDonald Creek near Nakusp, and west of Trail along the "Rossland cutoff". Infestations are in immature and mature; pure and mixed stands of western larch.

Near Inonoaklin Crossing the larch budmoth has completed feeding and is in the pupal stage. Probably the moths will emerge and fly during the latter part of July, and lay eggs in August.

Areas of defoliation have been detected from ground vantage points; the August aerial surveys will undoubtedly disclose additional infestations.

The last infestation of larch budmoth in the Nelson Forest District occurred in 1965 - 1968, when many of the higher elevation western larch stands were defoliated. No trees were killed by this pest during the last epidemic, however defoliation undoubtedly reduced wood production in the infested stands.