Ressources naturelles Canada Service canadien des forêts

PEST REPORT

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FIDS PEST REPORT 94-14

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TWO-YEAR-CYCLE SPRUCE BUDWORM IN THE PRINCE GEORGE FOREST REGION

R.L. Ferris & N. Humphreys Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Defoliation of spruce and balsam stands by two-year-cycle spruce budworm, *Choristoneura biennis* decreased to about 71 000 ha in 1994 from 104 000 ha in 1992 (map). The Prince George, McBride and Fort St. James forest districts had 44 500 ha, 18 500 ha and 8 000 ha of defoliation respectively. The feeding is caused by mature larvae, except in Fort St. James where damage is caused by first year (off cycle) larvae.

Damage was recorded in south eastern and west central portions of the region. The defoliation was light throughout the region. Damage occurred in the south east near Narrow and Stoney lakes; Pinkerton, Haggen, Everett, Centennial, Dome, Littlefield and Briefly creeks in the Prince George Forest District; Forgetmenot and Cushing creeks; Goat, Dore, Milk and Morkill rivers in the McBride Forest District. North of Fort St. James, light defoliation occurred near the Tsayta and Tchenilo lakes.

The B.C. Forest Service reports mortality of mature trees near Narrow Lake; this will be assessed in the near future.

The impact of the defoliation over the area has been growth loss on mature trees. Occasional scattered top-kill and tree mortality may occur with continued defoliation on understory trees. Feeding was mostly restricted to the top three meters on the mature trees.

Control has been limited to disease, parasitism and weather. Chemical controls have not been used against the two-year-cycle spruce budworm in British Columbia.

The Forest Insect and Disease Survey (FIDS) will continue to monitor the two-year-cycle budworm. If FIDS can be of assistance, please call the Canadian Forest Service at 363-0600.

