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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY **PEST REPORT**

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

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DOUGLAS-FIR TUSsock MOTH INFESTATIONS,

KAMLOOPS FOREST DISTRICT, 1972.

Cliff Cottrell

Douglas-fir tussock moth larvae severely defoliated 1,700 acres of immature Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine trees in 40 scattered locations from Salmon Arm to the United States Border (see map). The largest infestation, covering some 1,000 acres, occurred near Kilpoola Lake, west of Osoyoos. The majority of outbreaks in the Okanagan Valley were in the vicinity of Winfield and Kelowna, varying in size from 1 to 50 acres. Douglas-fir and a few ponderosa pine were killed in the center of some infestations where trees were also defoliated in 1971. Small numbers of larvae were collected in the Similkameen Valley near Hedley where none was found in 1971.

The Okanagan, Similkameen and South Thompson valleys have a history of periodic outbreaks of this pest, usually in semi-arid sites in the forest or in residential areas. Douglas-fir mortality or top-killing frequently occurs following repeated defoliation.

A polyhedral virus appeared in larval collections taken at Kilpoola Lake and Winfield but this disease is not expected to immediately reduce tussock moth populations. There were large numbers of eggs in most infested stands in the fall of 1972 and further defoliation and tree mortality is looked for in 1973.



