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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE SURVEY
PEST REPORT

Pacific Forest Research Centre • Canadian Forestry Service • Victoria

July 10, 1973.

PINE BEETLE INFESTATION

AT ELK CREEK

A. F. Dawson

Aerial and ground surveys in 1972 showed a continuing active infestation of mountain pine beetle, Dendroctonus ponderosae, at Elk Creek (White River, Nelson Forest District). On 22 May 1973 an aerial survey showed that at least several thousand recently attacked lodgepole pine were killed or dying*. Ground examinations at the lower end of Elk Creek, near the present area of salvage logging, showed only 13% of the pine healthy; 56% were successfully attacked and 31% were only partially attacked by the bark beetle. Bark samples taken from 1972-attacked trees showed numerous healthy larvae; some of the attacked trees were still green and were not detectable from the helicopter.

Aerial color photographs taken during the May survey of the Elk Creek infestation have now been interpreted. They show over 8,000 recently dead, i.e. red-topped trees, and about 1,000 old dead trees. The areas where recent damage has occurred are shown on the accompanying map. The count of red-tops in the photographs and shown on the map is probably conservative, as some trees would be hidden by their neighbors, and green-attacked trees would not be distinguishable; however it is more precise than counts made from aircraft during the May survey.

* C.F.S. special report on 28 May 1973.

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE

Dendroctonus ponderosae

ELK CREEK, B.C.

500



Areas of infested lodgepole pine and number of red-tops counted from aerial photographs taken 22 May, 1973



1 in. = 1.25 mi.

