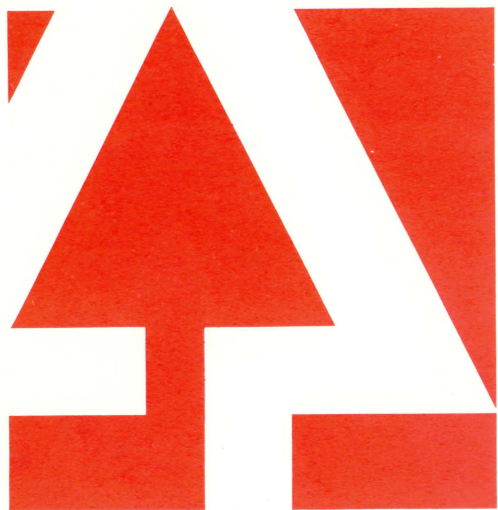


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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE CONDITIONS IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARKS, 1973

Jack Monts

This report summarizes the status of forest insects and diseases in Mount Revelstoke, Glacier, Yoho and Kootenay National Parks for 1973. Pest conditions in these parks were assessed by the author as part of the Canadian Forestry Service annual survey of the Nelson Forest District.

Forest Insect Conditions

In 1973 the mountain pine beetle, *Dendroctonus ponderosae*, caused additional western white pine tree mortality in Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks. A total of 270 red-topped white pine were counted along the Clachnacudainn Range in Revelstoke National Park, while 230 red-tops were noted near Flat Creek in Glacier National Park. Prominent branch flagging, frequently in association with bark beetle attacks, was caused by the fungus, white pine blister rust, *Cronartium ribicola*. Scattered mountain pine beetle attacks are expected to continue to kill pine trees in these areas in 1974.

Increased numbers of western hemlock loopers, *Lambdina f. lugubrosa*, caused light to moderate defoliation of western hemlock and western red cedar trees in Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks. Tree defoliation was most noticeable at Flat Creek and along the Mount Revelstoke road, where up to 100% of the foliage on the new growth was devoured. Hemlock looper egg sampling in the fall in areas adjacent to Glacier National Park, indicated that the infestation will continue in 1974.

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Numerous filament bearer loopers, *Nematocampa filamentaria*, and hemlock loopers severely defoliated western hemlock along the Tangier River, adjacent to Glacier National Park. However, there was only light defoliation in the Park, notably at Flat Creek and Beaver River. These infestations are expected to persist in 1974.

Understory western hemlock trees were denuded by a localized infestation of hemlock sawflies, *Neodiprion* spp., at Flat Creek, in Glacier National Park.

Very light feeding by the two-year-cycle spruce budworm, *Choristoneura biennis*, occurred within an infestation along the Vermillion River in Kootenay National Park. Noticeable defoliation may be expected in 1974 when the larvae will be in their second year, the more voracious period of development.

Forest Disease Conditions

Lodgepole pine stands along the Kootenay River in Kootenay National Park were heavily infected with lodgepole pine dwarf mistletoe, *Arceuthobium americanum*. Brooming was prominent from the southern park boundary to Kootenay Crossing. Similar infections persist near Emerald Lake in Yoho National Park.

Branch cankers, *Potebniamyces balsamicola*, caused conspicuous flagging on understory alpine fir along the Vermillion River in Kootenay National Park.