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PEST REPORT

Pacific Forest Research Centre • 506 West Burnside Rd. • Victoria, B.C. • V8Z 1M5

June 17, 1974.

SPRUCE BUDWORM IN MAINLAND

FORESTS, VANCOUVER DISTRICT

Roland O. Wood

Western spruce budworm, *Choristoneura occidentalis*, larvae emerged from their silken winter quarters in the bark crevices of the Douglas-fir trees later in 1974 than usual. A small proportion of the tiny young larvae had moved into the buds by the last week in May on the Mainland of Vancouver District. By the second week in June beating samples along the Skagit River and the west side of Harrison Lake indicated that the budworm larvae were numerous, as predicted, in spite of inclement spring weather.

At Sumallo River on 11th June 32% of the Douglas-fir buds were infested with 1 to 3 spruce budworm larvae, a density sufficient to produce moderate to severe defoliation in the summer of 1974. It is unlikely that any significant tree mortality will result from 1974 defoliation along Sumallo River however it probably will reduce wood production and the trees will be unsightly.