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DOUGLAS-FIR BEETLE ATTACKS

ON SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND

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Mature standing and windthrown Douglas-fir trees have been heavily attacked by the Douglas-fir beetle, *Dendroctonus pseudotsugae*, at five known locations on southern Vancouver Island.

In the Cameron River Valley eight standing and four windthrown trees at three locations on a firebreak block contain large numbers of adult bark beetles; seven of the standing trees were predisposed by light 1973 attacks.

On the western edge of MacMillan Park, (Cathedral Grove), five Douglas-fir windthrown by storms in January 1974 also contain large numbers of adults.

On the Tsartlip Indian Reserve in East Saanich 20 mature trees have been killed by the beetle between 1971 and 1974.

Current infestations of Douglas-fir beetle have also been recorded at Whisky Creek west of Coombs, and at Stocking Creek north of Chemainus, where the six attacked trees apparently were predisposed by flooding.

Douglas-fir beetle populations have been at very low levels on Vancouver Island since 1955; the current increase in activity poses a potential hazard. Removal of the attacked stems before the spring of 1975 is imperative to prevent increasing attacks in standing timber.