

# PEST REPORT

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## WESTERN FALSE HEMLOCK LOOPER OUTBREAK IN THE WINDERMERE VALLEY

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Infestations of the western false hemlock looper, *Nepytia freemani*, are causing moderate to severe defoliation of Douglas-fir trees at several locations in the Windermere Valley. An estimated 800 to 1000 acres are affected, with about 300 acres considered moderate to severe. The heaviest defoliation occurs on the west side of Columbia Lake from Hardie Creek to Dutch Creek, and at Brady Creek on the west side of Windermere Lake. Moderate damage is also evident on both sides of Shuswap Creek on the Shuswap Indian Reserve east of Windermere Lake.

Much of the 1975 foliage has been attacked in the heavily infested areas and feeding, which is heaviest near the tops of the trees, gives the affected stands a scorched appearance. Larvae are presently over half grown and will continue feeding until late in July. Defoliation will increase and become more apparent as larvae reach maturity.

A survey of these infestations in the fall would be required to predict populations for 1976.

The previous outbreak of this pest in the Windermere Valley occurred during the late 1940's and damaged the Douglas-fir stands, notably those intended for Christmas trees.