

PEST REPORT

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SPRUCE BUDWORM INFESTATIONS WITHIN THE SPILLIMACHEEN TREE FARM LICENSE

Jack S. Monts

Spectacular foliage discoloration in high elevation alpine fir - Engelmann spruce stands at McMurdo and Vowell creeks and along the Spillimacheen River Valley has resulted from defoliation by larvae of spruce budworm, *Choristoneura* sp. On mature trees the feeding was most pronounced in the upper crowns and on the 1975 foliage, while backfeeding occurred on younger, understory trees.

Heavy defoliation, extending from the valley bottoms to 6,000-foot elevation, covered an estimated 2,000 acres at McMurdo Creek and more than 3,000 acres along Vowell Creek. Defoliation was light or moderate on approximately 7,000 acres along the south side of the Spillimacheen River Valley from Spillimacheen Mountain to Caribou Peak.

No further damage will occur this year as larval feeding is now completed and the insects are in the pupal stage. Defoliation may be expected to continue in these areas in 1976 if high populations overwinter successfully.

less in 1976 since probably this is

C. biennis.

Don. R.