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# PEST REPORT

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## WESTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM IN VANCOUVER FOREST DISTRICT

Roland O. Wood and Colin S. Wood

Aerial surveys in August showed that defoliation of Douglas-fir and true fir trees by western spruce budworm, *Choristoneura occidentalis*, increased by about 5,000 acres in 1975 to a total of 198,560. Of this amount 175,680 was light to moderate defoliation and 22,880 was heavy.

Areas of defoliation along the Lillooet River northwest of Pemberton decreased but new infestations occurred south of Lillooet Lake to Tuwasus Creek. Infestations from Mt. Currie north to Birkenhead Lake continued with increased defoliation at Owl Creek, Blackwater Creek and Haylmore Creek. Infestations expanded in the Fraser Canyon area along Anderson River and Nahatlatch Lake and River, and in the Skagit River and Sumallo River valleys into Manning Park.

Areas infested in 1975 were as follows: Cheakamus Lake - Pemberton - Lillooet River north - 13,920 acres; Lillooet River - south Birkenhead Lake - 45,600; Silverhope Creek - Skagit River - Hope - Manning Park - 39,840; Hope - Boston Bar - 99,200. Defoliation in 1975 ranged from 30 to 90% of the new foliage.

Light tree mortality has occurred at Railroad Creek where defoliation has persisted for six years; top-kill is becoming more evident in other locations, notably at Haylmore Creek, Blackwater Creek, Sumallo River and in the older infestations in the Fraser Canyon.

Egg samples taken in August indicated that spruce budworm infestations will continue in 1976 and that moderate to heavy defoliation will probably occur at Birkenhead Lake, Gates River, Nahatlatch Lake and River, Anderson River, Skagit River and in Manning Park. The new infestations along the Lillooet River south of Lillooet Lake are expected to increase and expand toward Harrison Lake.

WESTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM DEFOLIATION  
OF DOUGLAS-FIR AND TRUE FIR,  
VANCOUVER FOREST DISTRICT

1975

