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PEST REPORT

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September 17, 1975.

WESTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM IN KAMLOOPS

FOREST DISTRICT

H. Peter Koot and Colin S. Wood

Infestations of western spruce budworm, *Choristoneura occidentalis*, in Douglas-fir stands continued in western portions of the Kamloops Forest District, notably expanding in the Adams Lake area in 1975.

Aerial surveys in August revealed 85,000 acres of Douglas-fir defoliation in the Anderson, Seton, Carpenter, Gun and Downton lakes areas, Cayoosh Creek and in tributary valleys of the Fraser River from Fountain south to Kwoiek Creek in the Fraser Canyon (see attached map). Defoliation was heavy on 8,000 acres, moderate on 14,000 and light on 63,000 acres. This is the eighth consecutive year of defoliation in the Bridge River Valley. Heaviest feeding damage occurred near Kwoiek Lake, Jackass Mtn, Shalalth, Marshall Creek and Downton Lake. Very little tree mortality has occurred to date, but some top-kill is evident in several areas, particularly near Kwoiek Lake, Mission Pass, and Marshall Creek, where from 2 to 20 feet of top-kill is common.

Infestations along Adams Lake and Adams River increased from 1,600 acres of light defoliation in 1974 to 9,500 acres of light to moderate defoliation in 1975. New infestations in Douglas-fir stands were found along both sides of Adams Lake north of Spapilem Creek, and near Momich Lake, Gollen Creek and Harbour lakes. Moderate defoliation occurred at Robert and Burton creeks, where defoliation first appeared in 1974. Engelmann spruce, alpine fir and western hemlock were also defoliated when associated with Douglas-fir. No top-kill or tree mortality has occurred to date in the Adams Lake area.

Egg samples taken in August indicated that spruce budworm infestations will continue at the same intensity in 1976 throughout areas defoliated this past summer.

WESTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM DEFOLIATION OF DOUGLAS-FIR

KAMLOOPS FOREST DISTRICT

1975

