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PEST REPORT

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June 5, 1976.

FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR IN THE McBRIDE AREA,
PRINCE GEORGE FOREST DISTRICT

Roland O. Wood

Larvae of the forest tent caterpillar, *Malacosoma disstria*, were abundant on trembling aspen, willow and many other deciduous hosts along the highway a few miles northwest of McBride on June 4. Larvae were in masses on the boles, branches and foliage of understory trees; the upper boles of some mature poplars were almost covered with larvae.

To date there is little foliage damage noticeable on the large trees but it is apparent on the understory. Severe defoliation is expected within the next few weeks.

High populations occurred in this area in 1975 and defoliation was apparent on 10,000 acres.