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PEST REPORT

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A LODGEPOLE PINE SAWFLY INFESTATION NEAR VAVENBY, KAMLOOPS FOREST DISTRICT

Jack S. Monts

Sawfly larvae, *Neodiprion* sp., severely defoliated the old growth on lodgepole pine stands along the North Thompson River from Vavenby to Cottonwood Flats. The infestation covered a total of 35,000 acres from the valley bottom up to 3,000 feet elevation. The heaviest defoliation was on 25,000 acres between Mad River Valley and Wire Cache. Foliage on the 1976 growth was generally little affected.

The sawflies, currently in late stages of larval development, eventually will drop to the forest floor and form silken cocoons in the duff. Generally adults will emerge from the cocoons late in the summer, and lay eggs in the needles.

It is too early to predict the population trend, however natural control factors were apparent. Some larvae showed signs of infection by a virus. Parasitism of sawfly larvae by other insects, and predation by mice and shrews of sawflies in the cocoon stage will play an undetermined role.