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PEST REPORT

Pacific Forest Research Centre • 506 West Burnside Rd. • Victoria, B.C. • V8Z 1M5

June 24, 1977.

WESTERN WHITE PINE TREE MORTALITY
AT McNAUGHTON LAKE,
PRINCE GEORGE FOREST DISTRICT

Roland O. Wood

An aerial survey by helicopter over McNaughton Lake, south of Valemount, on June 14 indicated that mountain pine beetle, *Dendroctonus ponderosae*, is active in that area. Scattered along the west side of the lake from Deer Creek to about 3 miles north, are western white pine trees with fading crowns, and others are red from older attacks. Some new attacks have already occurred, but ground checks showed beetle broods were mainly in the fourth instar and will probably mature and fly in July or August.

There are, however, other problems which are causing tree mortality. Many of the fading trees have heavy resinosis and partially fading crowns typical of white pine blister rust, *Cronartium ribicola*. Also, symptoms of Armillaria root rot were found on a number of dead white pine trees which had no evidence of beetle attack. On the opposite side of the lake at Ptarmigan Creek similar conditions are apparent. No ground checks were made, but many of the dead or dying trees show symptoms of blister rust rather than mountain pine beetle.