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July 11, 1977.

SPRUCE BUDWORM DEFOLIATION

OF DOUGLAS-FIR,

CARIBOO FOREST DISTRICT

Stanley J. Allen

Spruce budworm, Choristoneura occidentalis, again caused light to moderate defoliation of a pure stand of Douglas-fir over about 500 acres (200 ha) in the Marion Creek Valley south of Clinton. New foliage of dominant and codominant trees was reddened, while bare tops 2-5 ft long occurred on about 30% of the understory trees. Lighter defoliation occurred north along Highway 97 to about Kay Creek.

A general population rise occurred intermittently from the Loon Lake area north to the Big Bar Lake Road. Feeding by the spruce budworm is almost completed for the year, so little additional foliage discoloration should occur.