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VICTORIA, B.C. V8Z 1M5
CANADA

PEST REPORT

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

March 28, 1978.

SPRUCE BEETLE INFESTATIONS AT CHU CHUA CREEK

NEAR BARRIERE, B. C., 1978

Jack S. Monts

Mature Engelmann spruce forests adjacent to a logged area near the headwaters of Chu Chua Creek contain active spruce beetle infestations. More than half of the spruce trees are infested over a 55-ha stand south of the Creek, and 25 ha of "leave strips" near the headwaters also contain infested trees.

Green infested trees in both areas contained young larvae and parent adults, which indicated that the larvae will mature this fall; overwinter as adults, and may attack susceptible trees in the spring of 1979. More than one third of the infested trees had partial or "strip" attacks (a portion of the bark cambium remains healthy and the tree continues to live); however, these latter trees are expected to attract and absorb early beetle flights during 1978.

Considerable woodpecker activity is already in evidence throughout the infestation. This predation will reduce the beetle populations, but the broods on the lower bole will have been protected during the winter by accumulated snow.

This infestation demands prompt logging during 1978 in order to remove the infested trees before the spring of 1979 when adults will emerge and fly to attack the susceptible adjacent "leave blocks".