

PEST REPORT

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

August 21, 1978.

SPRUCE BEETLE IN THE PRINCE GEORGE

FOREST DISTRICT

Leo Unger

More than 94,000 acres of white spruce in the Summit Lake and Fort St. James area (see map) are under attack by the spruce beetle, *Dendroctonus rufipennis*. In addition there are patches of 2 to 10 acres with beetle-infested spruce trees along the Nation River near Williston Lake, Swift River at Valemount, Holmes River near McBride, Ahbau Lake east of Hixon, and Tatelkuz Lake south of Vanderhoof.

The attacked trees have become obviously discolored through rapid drying of the foliage, brought on by the warm, dry summer weather. The newly discolored trees are mainly those attacked by the spruce beetle in 1977, although "partial attacks" occurred earlier. Generally the large mature trees above 12 inches d.b.h. are affected.

An examination of beetle broods during the third week in August indicated that 55 to 75 per cent of the 1978 brood may mature and be ready to fly in the spring of 1979. This, added to the normal 2-year-cycle 1977 brood, should produce a greater than usual spruce beetle flight in the spring of 1979.

Infestations

To Chelwynd

