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OVERWINTERING MORTALITY OF MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLES

CARIBOO FOREST DISTRICT

Stanley J. Allen

Noteworthy winter mortality occurred among the mountain pine beetle populations in lodgepole pine trees in Cariboo Forest District, especially in the Tatla - One Eye lakes, Riske Creek, Gaspard Creek - Meldrum lakes areas. For example, mortality ranged from 92 to 98% in samples taken from the lower five feet of trees at McIntyre, Drummond, Tatla and One Eye lakes.

Most of the mortality probably occurred in November 1977, when temperatures plunged to approximately -40° F at Tatla and One Eye lakes. At the time, there was no snow covering to protect the beetles. During the spring, woodpeckers stripped from 5 to 100% of the bark on the lower 30 feet of numerous infested tree-trunks.

In general, there are sufficient surviving beetles to maintain the infestations in these areas.