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PEST REPORT

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

June 4, 1979

WINTER DRYING OF CONIFERS NELSON FOREST REGION, 1979

Bob Erickson

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Reddening of foliage on western hemlock, western white pine and western red cedar was common and widespread in the western portion of the Nelson Forest Region in the spring of 1979. The discoloration probably resulted from an early, sudden drop in temperature or from loss of water from the needles when absorption and movement in the roots was reduced by low temperatures. Although large trees have been affected, smaller trees were most severely discolored, and all the foliage on many hemlock saplings was damaged and has been shed prematurely. Damage is seldom permanent, and tree mortality is not expected although some twig dieback may occur. New buds had not flushed at the time of examination, but bud mortality was estimated at about 10% on white pine and lighter on hemlock and cedar. Affected areas include: Shelter Bay to north of Revelstoke, Monashee Highway at higher elevations, Kaslo to Whittewater, Fruitvale to Salmo-Creston Highway, New Denver to Hills and many of the connected side-valleys.