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PEST REPORT

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

June 18, 1980

BLACK ARMY CUTWORM,

JACK FIRE,

CARIBOO FOREST REGION

S.J. Allen

Black army cutworm (Actebia fennica) defoliated herbacious ground plants and Douglas-fir seedlings planted during April and May, 1980, in the Jack fire area six miles south of Cottonwood House. Prepupal larvae were present under the soil surface during an examination June 6.

Douglas-fir seedlings were only heavily defoliated over an area of about 10 ha on the ridgetops near the western boundary of the burn. Here, the preferred herbacious ground vegetation was sparse and the cutworm larvae had caused 50 to 100% defoliation of the Douglas-fir seedlings. Throughout the remainder of the plantation fireweed, thimbleberry and elderberry were plentiful and the seedlings were only lightly defoliated, or untouched.

Seedling mortality on the hill-tops may be expected and replanting may be necessary after some ground cover has become established.

The small numbers of black army cutworm larvae found indicates that the population has been reduced by predators (crows, robins and shrews prey on insect pupae in the soil) and will be further reduced during summer and fall. Few, if any larvae will likely occur in the spring of 1981.