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PEST REPORT

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

August 17, 1981

STATUS OF MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE AND SPRUCE BEETLE IN STANDS OF CRESTBROOK FOREST INDUSTRIES WITHIN THE CRESTON-KITCHENER-YAHK REGION OF THE KOOTENAY LAKE T.S.A.

NELSON FOREST REGION
June, ~~1980~~

H. Peter Koot

At the request of Crestbrook Forest Industries, pine and spruce stands in the Region were examined June 25, ~~1980~~ in company with Ron Johnston, C.F.I. and Ken Jardarey, B.C.M.F., Creston to update the extent and potential of mountain pine beetle, Dendroctonus ponderosae, and spruce beetle, Dendroctonus rufipennis.

The area was examined by helicopter and several ground checks were made. Following are observations and recommendations.

Irishman Creek

White pine blister rust in association with mountain pine beetle has persisted in this area for at least five years and has caused mortality of a major component of white pine in the upper reaches of this drainage. At the present time mountain pine beetle does not appear to be a problem in lodgepole pine, but there is a potential for infestation in susceptible age class pines in this area. Salvage of dead and removal of newly infested/infected white pine and any lodgepole pine is recommended.

Hawkins - Freeman Creeks

Increased mountain pine beetle activity in the form of scattered small pockets of 2-10, 1980 attacked lodgepole pine trees is evident mostly on the south slopes of these drainages. Removal of these small localized infestations by cut/burn procedures or small scale logging is recommended as they represent a major threat to surrounding susceptible-aged pine stands. A more long term consideration would be the orderly removal of the adjacent susceptible pine component. Each small infestation should be closely examined for current beetle attack and/or other causes of mortality, because fire-kill and animal damage were also noted. Ips beetles may also be a factor.

Skelly Creek (Shoe Cr. Rd. Area)

Of prime concern in this area is the presence of spruce beetle which has attacked standing mature spruce in at least one location examined. A portion of the spruce beetle population has already infested trap logs and these along with standing trees are slated for removal this year. A large flight of ambrosia beetles, noted at the time of visit, will add to the damage in the form of degrade to sawlog-peeler material. To further reduce the threat of future spruce beetle infestation it is recommended that stump height be kept to a minimum and trap tree stumps be peeled or treated. After logging, cut-block boundaries should be monitored and any further windfalls removed to prevent beetle build-up. However, they may be left to act as trap trees providing they are removed prior to beetle flight in May.

Mountain pine beetle at this time does not appear to be a threat to this area.