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NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA
PACIFIC & YUKON REGION
506 W. BURNSIDE RD.
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PEST REPORT

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

June 15, 1982

BLACK ARMY CUTWORM INFESTATION

NEAR BOBO CREEK, NORTH THOMPSON RIVER VALLEY

KAMLOOPS FOREST REGION

Colin Wood

An infestation of the black army cutworm, Actebia fennica, has killed more than 20,000 (1-0 stock) lodgepole pine seedlings from a total of over 27,000 planted on 17 hectares near Bobo Creek along the North Thompson River on CP 49. Late instar larvae were numerous at higher elevations of the planting site where they had stripped all the deciduous ground cover and completely defoliated the seedlings.

The site was slash burned in September 1980 and planted early June, 1982. On June 8, cutworm larvae were observed feeding on deciduous ground cover and the newly planted pine seedlings.

The damage was assessed on June 12 and showed that approximately 50% of the seedlings were killed immediately by being 100% defoliated and that the terminal bud was no longer present. Another 25% were severely defoliated, but retained the terminal buds, however their chance of surviving was considered low and these seedlings were classified as killed. The remaining 25% of the seedlings are in a moist flat creek bottom and are expected to survive as they suffered little or no damage.

The cutworms are presently in the late larval stage and will continue feeding until the latter half of June, when pupation will occur in the duff.

Recommendations to minimize future losses are detailed in the publication: The Black Army Cutworm in British Columbia by D.A. Ross and S. Illytzyk, and will be available at the end of June from the Pacific Forest Research Centre.

Black army cutworm infestations have also been reported from Prince Rupert Region (near Smithers), Prince George Region (near McLeod Lake) and north of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

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