

Canada

PFR

Pest. rept.

1982

Aug. 3

Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Forestry
Service

Service
des Forêts

LIBRARY

JUN 6 1994

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA
PACIFIC & YUKON REGION
506 W. BURNSIDE RD.
VICTORIA, B.C. V8Z 1M5 CANADA

PEST REPORT

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

August 3, 1982

LARCH SAWFLY INFESTATION

NELSON FOREST REGION

H. Peter Koot

The larch sawfly, *Pristiphora erichsonii*, severely defoliated several hundred hectares of immature and mature western larch in stands immediately south of the Dutch Creek "Hoodooos" near Fairmont Hot Springs. The heaviest feeding occurred in nearly pure larch stands along the slopes, while scattered larch in mixed stands with Douglas-fir and lodgepole pine on benchland were generally moderately defoliated. Individual tree defoliation ranged from 10 to 100 per cent, and averaged about 60 per cent.

On July 23, larvae were nearing the cocoon stage, therefore, very little additional defoliation will occur. Aerial surveys in early August will more accurately delineate the infestation and cocoon sampling this fall will help predict population and feeding levels in 1983.

Since the first recorded occurrence in 1930 of this western larch pest in British Columbia, epidemics have occurred in Nelson Forest Region in the 1930's, 1940's, 1960's and during 1976-79. Several native and one introduced parasitic insect, plus weather conditions, contributed to the decline of these epidemics. Little or no tree mortality has resulted from these outbreaks in British Columbia.

* * * * *