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PEST REPORT

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

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STATUS OF SPRUCE BARK BEETLE IN AND NEAR

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

R. Turnquist
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Mortality of mature Engelmann spruce¹ by spruce beetle, *Dendroctonus rufipennis*, recorded by aerial survey¹ on August 9th at the southern boundary of Glacier National Park, was light to moderate in scattered pockets over 250 ha.

A strip survey of the area by CFS-FIDS on September 17th ran along the east side of the Beaver River 1100 m into the Park. Of 75 spruce in 22 plots, 7% were attacked in 1984; 9% were attacked in the previous two years, one tree possibly earlier; no partial or strip attacked trees were recorded, and 84% were healthy. The predominantly two-year cycle populations will emerge in 1985 and be a threat to extensive stands of susceptible mature spruce in the park.

South of the park boundary 30 000 m³ of spruce have been logged from about 150 ha, and further logging of infested stands and slash burning has been recommended by the B.C. Ministry of Forests as well as a trap tree program to attempt to reduce beetle populations. This includes 30 lethal trap trees near the park boundary, which with numerous healthy trees within the park should absorb the 1985 beetle flight and reduce re-infestation of mature spruce stands in crown forests. Followup surveys by CFS-FIDS within the Park will be conducted to determine the status of the beetle populations in 1985.

¹ Spruce beetle killed trees mapped from the air are at least one year old because foliar color change is delayed following attack. Currently attacked trees can only be identified from the ground.