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PEST REPORT

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

October 1985

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE

MOUNT ROBSON PROVINCIAL PARK

R. Garbutt

Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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In the summer of 1985 a total of at least 110 lodgepole pine killed by 1984 mountain pine beetle attacks were seen in three separate infestations in and adjacent to Mount Robson Provincial Park. Overwintering brood survival, though low, was sufficient to allow the attack of a similar number of trees in 1985.

The most important infestation from the Provincial Parks standpoint is located within Mount Robson Park itself. Forty 1984-attacked trees were found 8 km east of the Mount Robson Centre, approximately 300 meters above Hwy. 16 (see Map). A similar number of trees adjacent to the initial clump were attacked in August 1985, but attacks were late and gallery and brood establishment very slow, significantly reducing the chance of the population surviving the winter.

A more westerly infestation containing two patches (separated by approximately 150 meters) of 1984-attacks totalling 50 trees, was located east of Swiftcurrent Creek, just west of the Mount Robson Park boundary. A mid-July assessment found that less than 10% of the overwintering brood had survived and progeny development ranged from fourth instar through pupae. One very light (less than 1 attack/30 cm²) current attack contained fully completed parental galleries with eggs and first instar larvae. With the major flight occurring around August 1, other trees in the same area were probably attacked. The site was not revisited.

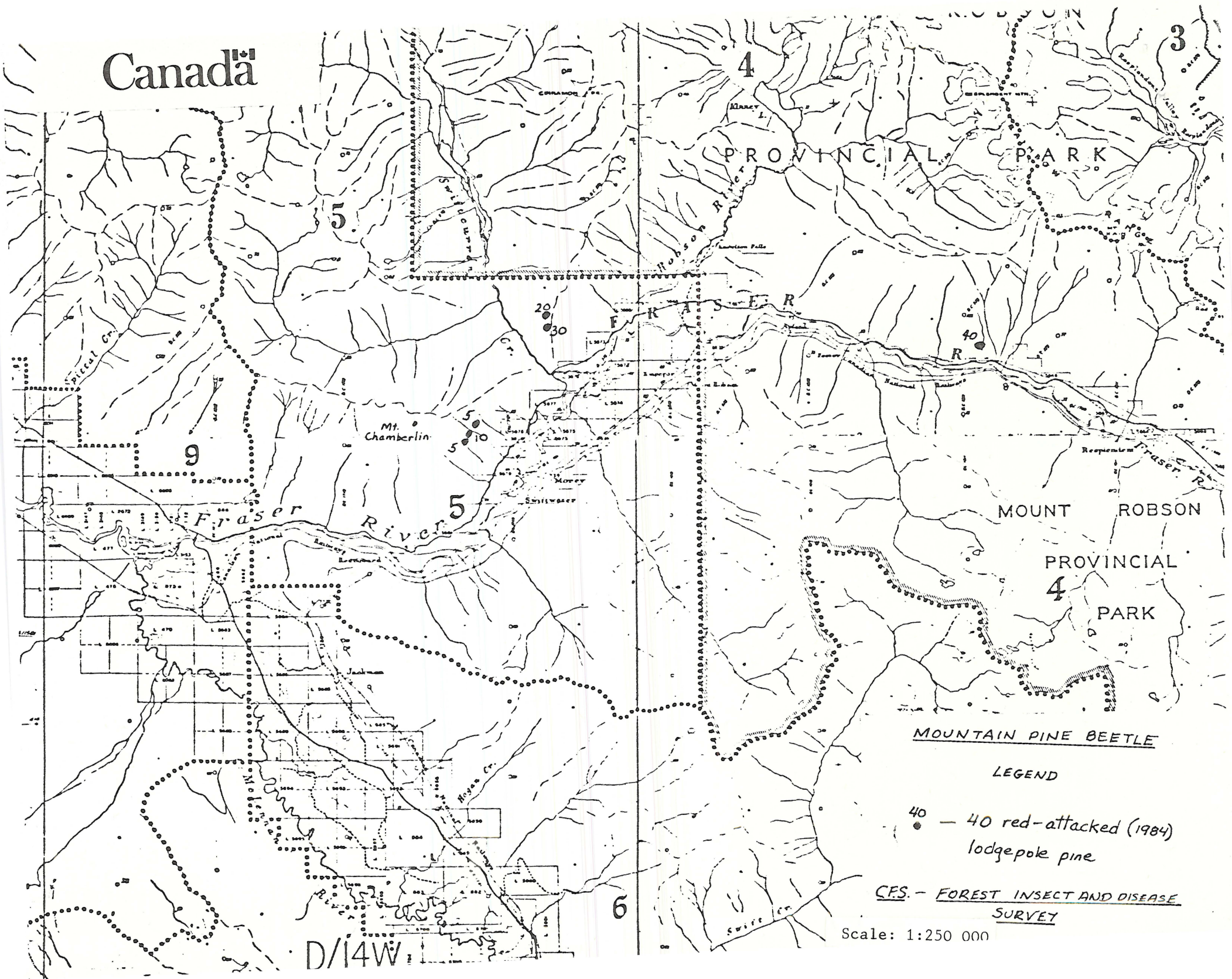
The third infestation totalling 20 1984-attacked trees was located just west of Swiftcurrent Creek on the eastern slope of Mount Chamberlin. This infestation was first seen during aerial surveys on September 21 and was not ground checked.

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These infestations are isolated extensions of a beetle population that has been active along Canoe Arm since at least 1968. The closest major infestation, in Swift Creek, 20 km south of Tête Jaune Cache, was logged this summer before the beetle flight. It is emphasized that at least at the present scale, the infestations are manageable and if proper procedures are followed, the spread and intensification of the mountain pine beetle can be greatly reduced. During the winter of 1985-86, all current attacked trees (and optionally red-attacked as well to avoid confusion during later aerial surveys) that are judged to constitute a hazard should be felled and burned to eliminate any possibility of the beetle progeny reaching maturity. Negotiations are currently underway between M.O.F. McBride and Provincial Parks. Contacts have been made with Roger Tierney and Richard Rooth, Provincial Park employees at Mt. Robson. Now that the threat has been recognized, early detection by aerial and, if necessary, ground surveys of the Mount Robson Park area will be undertaken in late June 1986 when fading 1985-attacked trees first become visible from the air.

* * * * *

Canada



MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE

LEGEND

40 — 40 red-attacked (1984)
lodgepole pine

CFS. - FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE
SURVEY

Scale: 1:250 000