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## PREDICTED DEFOLIATION OF WESTERN HEMLOCK

BY BLACKHEADED BUDWORM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 1986

L. Unger

Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Based on numbers of overwintering budworm at 21 province-wide sites, severe defoliation of most western hemlock in and near stands defoliated by the budworm in 1985 is predicted for 1986 on the Queen Charlotte Islands and in the Kitimat area. Trace to very light defoliation is forecast in parts of the Cariboo, Kamloops and Vancouver regions (see Table).

Severe defoliation is forecast at nine of ten sample sites on Moresby Island from Sewell Inlet south to Forsyth Point. At Wathus Island and Atli Inlet respectively, moderate and light defoliation is forecast. Increased population and severe defoliation are expected in the Kitimat area, particularly at the Bowbyes Creek sample site, but also along Douglas and Gardner channels.

Trace or very light defoliation is expected to occur in the Quesnel Lakes area in the Cariboo Region, in Wells Gray Provincial Park in the Kamloops Region, in the Revelstoke area and in Statlu Creek drainage west of Chehalis Lake in the Vancouver Region.

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Table. Predicted defoliation of western hemlock in British Columbia in 1986 based on numbers of blackheaded budworm eggs.

Region/Location	Avg. No. Eggs per 50 cm branch	Predicted <sup>1</sup> defoliation 1986
<u>Q.C. Islands and Prince Rupert Region</u>		
Atli Inlet	21	Light
Wathus Island	35	Moderate
Powrivco Inlet	71	Severe
Tanu Island	101	Severe
Talunkwan Island	111	Severe
Burnaby Island	117	Severe
Sewell Inlet	123	Severe
Bowbyes (Kitimat)	129	Severe
Forsyth Point	135	Severe
Ramsey Island	170	Severe
Jedway	186	Severe
Thurston Harbour	219	Severe
<u>Cariboo</u>		
Quesnel Lake	1	Trace
Horsefly River	4	Trace
<u>Kamloops</u>		
Blue River	11	Light
<u>Nelson</u>		
Goldstream River	2	Trace
Cusson Creek	1	Trace
Mt. Revelstoke N.P.	3	Trace
<u>Vancouver</u>		
S. Statlu Creek	1	Trace
Blacklock Creek	1	Trace
Tessarso Creek	1	Trace

<sup>1</sup> 1-5 eggs: Trace defoliation; 6-26: Light; 27-59: Moderate; 60+: Severe.