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PEST REPORT

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

July, 1987

Status of Western Spruce Budworm Populations in British Columbia, July 1987

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

The number of Douglas-fir and some alpine fir buds infested by western spruce budworm at 57 locations in five forest regions surveyed in June (Map) indicates that defoliation will occur at variable intensities at and adjacent to all the locations. The area of Douglas-fir stands expected to be defoliated by the budworm in central B.C. could exceed 400 000 ha for the second consecutive year.

Twenty buds were examined on each of five trees at each location. An average of 33% of the buds were infested (range 2% to 90%). Based on the infested bud counts, defoliation is expected to be severe at 51% of the sites, moderate at 21% and light at the remainder. Nearly 70% of the sites of severe defoliation are in the Kamloops Forest Region, from west of Lillooet to near Lytton; near Cache Creek, Heffley and Louis creeks, Little Fort Barriere, Adams Lake and Chase; on Anarchist Mountain and west of Osoyoos around Blue Lake and on Mt. Kobau.

In the Cariboo Forest Region, west of budworm-infested Douglas-fir stands in the North Thompson River Valley, defoliation intensities will be varible. Near Canim and Mahood lakes understory alpine fir will be defoliated. For the first time in recent years, larvae are also evident near Horsefly and Quesnel lakes and Lac des Roches. Populations remain low near Clinton and Loon and Bonaparte lakes, but have increased slightly in the Big Bar Creek area.

In the western part of the Nelson Region defoliation intensities are expected to be variable with mainly light defoliation at Anarchist Mountain and McKinney Creek, moderate at Johnstone Creek, but severe in stands between Rock Creek and Bridesville.

Severe defoliation is predicted for Douglas-fir stands sampled near Pemberton in the Vancouver Region, where defoliation occurred in 1986 for the first time in five years. Defoliation is not expected to occur elsewhere in this region this year.

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Population monitoring will continue throughout the budworm's active period and will include forecasts based on adult trapping in baited non-sticky traps, egg mass counts and early instar larval collections.

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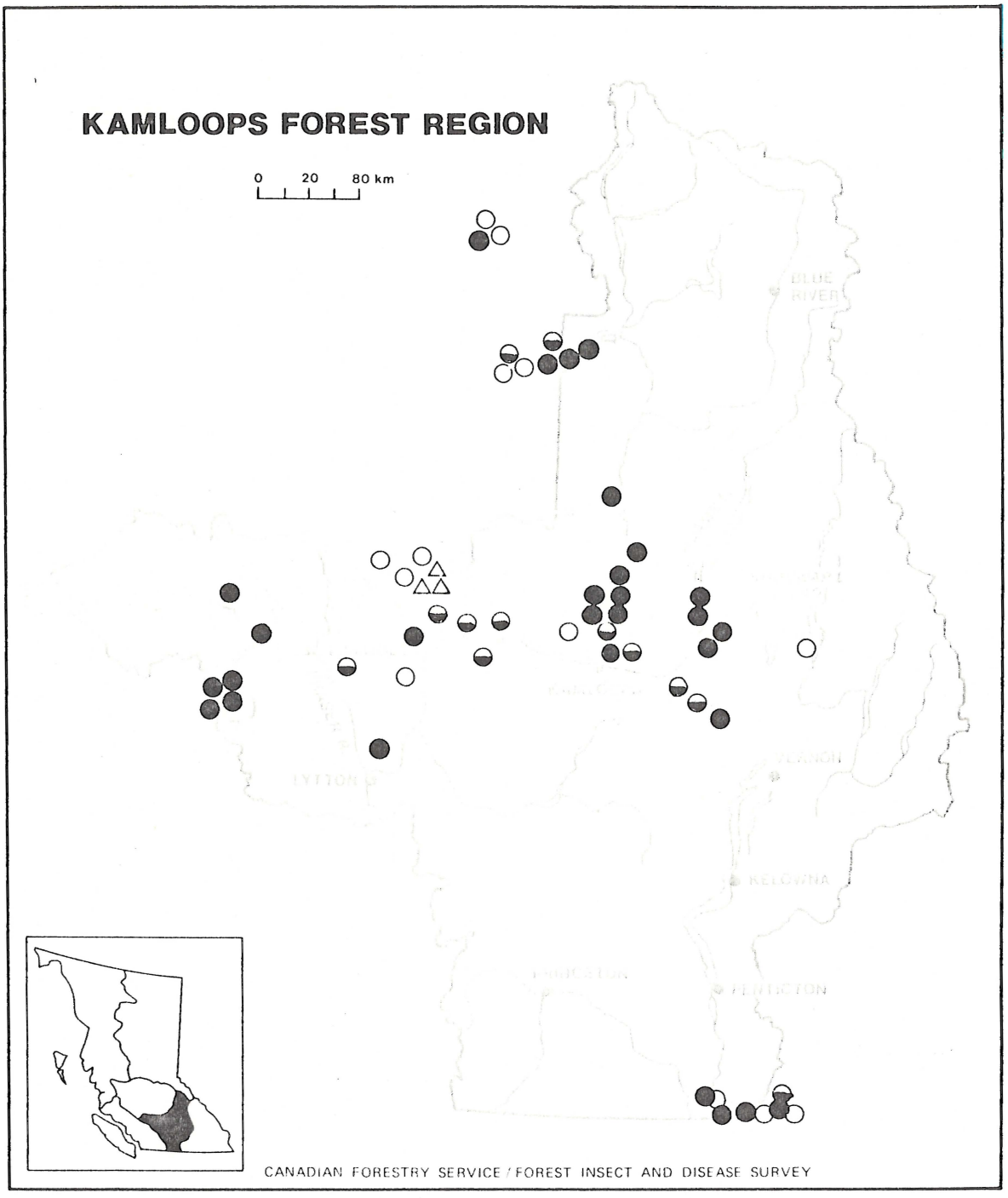

Predicted defoliation intensities of Douglas-fir and some alpine fir by western spruce budworm, British Columbia, 1987.

△ no defoliation
○ 1-15% buds infested = Light defoliation forecast
◒ 16-30% " " = Moderate " "
● 31%+ " " = Severe " "