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PEST REPORT

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

October 5, 1988

Western Spruce Budworm in British Columbia in 1988

C. Wood and G.A. Van Sickle
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

The total area and intensity of defoliation of Douglas-fir by western spruce budworm declined to 364 000 ha in the southern interior of British Columbia (see map). Overall this is a 56% decrease in area from 1987. During aerial sketchmapping, 83% (301 000 ha) of the total area was classified as light defoliation*, 16% (60 000 ha) was moderate and 1% (3000 ha) was severe. Of the total infestation, which comprises more than 1200 areas (mapped polygons), the majority (96%) is within the Kamloops Region with 2% (7650 ha) in the Cariboo Region, and 1% in each of the Vancouver and Nelson regions (3640 and 3275 ha, respectively).

The greatest areas of decline occurred in the Lillooet, Kamloops and Clearwater TSA's and in the eastern part of the Cariboo Region. Okanagan Valley infestations expanded slightly as well as those in the southwestern part of the Nelson Region and near Pemberton in the Vancouver Region.

Severe defoliation covered 3050 ha mostly in the Shuswap Lake area, and near Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton. Moderate defoliation was mapped over 60 000 ha in 184 infestations, mostly in the Kamloops Region and to a lesser extent in the Vancouver Region.

Of the total area infested since 1983, most (48%) has been defoliated one year, 36% for two consecutive years, and 15% for 3 or 4 years. Only 1% has been defoliated for 5 or 6 consecutive years.

More detailed information including surveys of parasitism, adult trapping, egg mass counts, and overwintering larval counts will be available in the Forest Insect and Disease Conditions report by FIDS this fall.

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- *Light defoliation - discolored foliage barely visible from the air, some branch tip and upper crown defoliation
- Moderate defoliation - pronounced discoloration, noticeably thin foliage, top third of many trees severely defoliated, some completely stripped
- Severe defoliation - bare branch tips and completely defoliated tops, most trees sustained more than 50% total defoliation

