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November 1989

Status of Douglas-fir Tussock Moth in Kamloops Forest Region, 1989

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Increased numbers of male Douglas-fir tussock moths caught in 184 pheromone-baited sticky traps (Table), and low but rising egg mass densities indicate a potential for limited defoliation in Douglas-fir stands in the Kamloops Forest Region in 1990. Most susceptible are forest stands near Kamloops and Winfield and ornamental or shade trees in urban or rural areas, particularly around Kamloops.

Tussock moth infestations on single ornamental spruce and Douglas-fir occurred for the second consecutive year in the City of Kamloops but over a wider area than previous. No defoliation was observed in forest stands, however, larvae were collected (range 1-39 larvae per standard FIDS sample) for the first time since 1985, between Savona and Chase and near Kelowna.

Male moth captures at 18 monitoring locations increased for the fourth consecutive year from 14 to an average of 18 per site for a total of 1893 moths in 106 traps. An additional 1782 adults were caught in single traps at 60 of 76 sites, up from 478 moths at 25 of 33 sites in 1988. These traps to determine distribution were located at 1 to 2 kilometre intervals from Deadman Creek to Pritchard for the second consecutive year and, for the first time in the Okanagan, from Vernon to Penticton. Additionally, traps distributed and monitored by BCFS personnel from Kamloops District averaged about 8 adults each at 38 of 46 sites.

Egg surveys were conducted in early October where trap catches of 25 or more moths were found (research has shown that 25 or more moths per trap indicate a potential for visible defoliation within two summers). Only 1 to 4 egg masses per location were found in up to one-hour searches in and adjacent to high trap catches in areas between Savona and Pritchard, Jamieson Creek and in the Okanagan Valley near Winfield. A potential for limited defoliation is forecast in these areas in 1990.

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Table. Number of male Douglas-fir tussock moths in pheromone-baited sticky traps monitored by FIDS, Kamloops Forest Region, 1989.

TSA and Location	Avg. no. moths per trap		
	1989	1988	1987
<u>Kamloops TSA</u>			
Carquile	<1	<1	0
Battle Cr.	7	2	<1
Barnes L.	<1	0	<1
Six Mile Ranch	66	47	-
Cherry Cr.	58	64	24
Stump L.	<1	0	0
Heffley Cr.	6	<1	0
Monte L.	17	4	0
Chase	4	0	0
Whispering Pine (Kaneta)	1	-	-
<u>Okanagan TSA</u>			
Winfield	56	40	23
Summerland	0	2	0
Kaleden	22	20	5
Blue L.	28	19	2
Vernon	52	18	5
Armstrong	1	0	<1
<u>Merritt TSA</u>			
Stemwinder Prov. Park	16	2	<1
<u>Lillooet TSA</u>			
Pavilion	0	<1	0
Average	18	14	4

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