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# PEST REPORT

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## SUMMARY OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE CARIBOO FOREST REGION

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

This summary is a brief overview of some major forest pests active in the Cariboo Region up to early September, 1990. A more detailed report on these and other pests of significance to the forest manager, their impact and some forecasts will be available later in the year.

The area and number of mature Douglas-fir killed by Douglas-fir beetle is likely to exceed 1280 patches totaling 1160 ha recorded in 1989. Aerial surveys of the Williams Lake TSA recorded 1100 separate patches of 3 to 50 trees over a total of 850 ha, more than double that in 1989; data from other TSAs are being compiled. Surveys for beetle attack in 1990 Douglas-fir blowdown in the DND Block at Riske Creek are in progress. There was no defoliation of Douglas-fir by western spruce budworm in the Region for the second consecutive year. Populations collapsed in the Horsefly and Mahood lakes areas in 1989, following defoliation over 8000 ha in 1988.

The area and number of mature lodgepole pine killed by mountain pine beetle declined for the fourth consecutive year, following the collapse of major infestations in 1985, to 113 separate patches over 290 ha near Chilko Lake. Defoliation of the current year's needles of lodgepole pine by a conifer weevil was common for the second consecutive year in the Chilcotin. Stands adjacent to slash in cut blocks and spaced stands were most severely affected. Infection of year-old needles of lodgepole and ponderosa pines by *Klytroderma* needle disease declined and was less severe and widespread for the second consecutive year.

Spruce beetle populations increased from generally low levels and killed about 730 mature spruce in about 46 separate pockets totaling 85 ha near Barkerville in the Quesnel TSA. Most were in the Mitchell, Matthew, and Cariboo river valleys, in the Towkuh, Big Valley, Rehman, and Alice creek drainages and near Bowron Lake. New beetle attacks in recent blowdown in Bowron Provincial Park were found in 9 of 72 trees in August; results of more detailed surveys are being evaluated. New attacks by spruce weevil in immature Engelmann spruce ranged from 2 to 40% of the terminals at widespread sites throughout the Region, particularly in the Horsefly River drainage.

New tips of spruce and alpine fir were lightly defoliated by mature 2-year-cycle budworm over about 14 000 ha in about 125 separate patches, mostly in the Willow River drainage and near Barkerville in the Quesnel TSA. In 1988, the last year of feeding by mature larvae, stands were defoliated over more than 40 000 ha.

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High elevation mature alpine fir killed by balsam bark beetle were mapped in about 25 patches, mostly in the Bowron River drainage, over about 550 ha, down from about 1800 ha over more widespread areas in 1989.

Overmature western hemlock and western red cedar were defoliated by western hemlock looper over more than 200 ha on the Lynx Peninsula at Quesnel Lake. This was the first outbreak by this defoliator in the Region since the first recorded infestation declined in 1984.

The area of trembling aspen and other deciduous hosts defoliated by forest tent caterpillar increased slightly for the second consecutive year, but declined in severity. More than 60 separate stands were lightly and moderately defoliated over about 4650 ha including new areas near Horsefly, and from Green Lake north to Bridge Lake.

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