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SUMMARY OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS

IN THE KAMLOOPS FOREST REGION

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

This report provides a brief summary of major forest pest conditions in the Kamloops Forest Region up to early September, 1990. A more detailed report including some forecasts for 1991 will be available later in the year.

The area of mature lodgepole pine recently killed by mountain pine beetle declined by more than half to 5750 ha; however, the number of infestations, mostly in the Okanagan TSA, increased to 2700 from 1465. The overall decline in area was due to the reduction in number and size of larger infestations. New shoots on mostly immature trees were lightly and moderately defoliated by pine needle sheathminer in more than 110 separate areas totaling 161 500 ha, up from 143 000 ha in 1989, and for the fifth consecutive year, mostly in the north Okanagan and near Shuswap and Adams lakes. Defoliation of pines was also common over about 1000 ha in mixed stands where Douglas-fir was defoliated by western spruce budworm.

Defoliation of Douglas-fir by western spruce budworm increased slightly to more than 440 separate patches totaling 161 500 ha, up from 143 000 ha, mostly in the Okanagan TSA. The areas of expansion, which followed a decline in 1989, were in the north Okanagan in the Westside Road area, near Coldstream, and around Salmon Arm. Douglas-fir tussock moth populations increased in the Thompson and Okanagan valleys for the third consecutive year but defoliation was limited to single Douglas-fir and ornamental spruce in urban areas of Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton. The number of larvae increased in forested areas near Hedley, Naramata and Cherry Creek and were reported near Keremeos, Peachland, Glenrosa and Westbank, but there was no visible defoliation. The number of mature Douglas-fir killed by Douglas-fir beetle declined slightly to about 295 groups of 5-20 trees at widely scattered locations, mostly from Cache Creek to Clearwater.

The area of mature spruce killed by spruce beetle increased slightly to about 1100 ha in about 30 pockets including a new infestation in the Adams River drainage. An additional 200 ha containing previously killed trees was mapped in the Tulameen River drainage. Recent spruce blowdown in the Region will increase the potential for beetle attack.

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