

PEST REPORT

Pacific and Yukon Region • Pacific Forestry Centre • 506 West Burnside Road • Victoria, B.C. • V8Z 1M5

Pest Report 91-8

August 1991

EASTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM IN SPRUCE FIR FORESTS IN THE PRINCE GEORGE FOREST REGION

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The area of defoliated white spruce and alpine fir stands by the eastern spruce budworm, Choristoneura fumiferana, in the Prince George Forest Region in 1991 declined by forty percent to 245 400 ha.

Damage was recorded over similar areas as in 1990, some for the seventh consecutive year, from Fort Nelson to the Northwest Territories border and west to the Coal River area, but was less severe and more scattered. The area affected, as delineated by defoliation classes was: severe - none; moderate - 24 290 ha; light 221 120 ha. Most moderate defoliation occurred near Liard Hot Springs and the largest area of damage was along the Fort Nelson River between Klua and Cridland Creeks. Over 28 000 ha of severe defoliation was recorded in 1990.

Egg mass surveys in 1990 had indicated reduced populations for 1991 with 400 egg masses per 10m² of foliage compared to 1000 egg masses in 1989.

The cumulative damage caused by seven consecutive years of defoliation has resulted in scattered mortality and top kill of understory white spruce in some areas.

Egg mass samples will be collected with the cooperation of the B.C. Forest Service and forest industry in the Fort Nelson area later in 1991, to forecast population trends in 1992. Results will be available later this Fall.

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