

PEST REPORT

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Pest Report 91-12

September 1991

Summary of Forest Pest Conditions Nelson Forest Region (East Kootenay)

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

This report provides a brief overview of the general trends of some major forest pests active in the East Kootenay part of the Nelson Forest Region up to early September. Field surveys are still in progress and more comprehensive results, including predictions for these and other pests in 1992 will be available following analysis of field data later in the year.

Mountain pine beetle infestations were recorded over 12 000 ha, up from 8 430 ha in 1990; the 1991 area figure is based on a dot grid estimate only and will likely be changed. The main increase continued in the Rocky Mountain Trench south of Cranbrook, but significant increases were also recorded in the lower Elk River, Bull River and Moyie Lake areas. Expansions were most prominent from Fernie to Elkford, along the Columbia River north of Steamboat Mountain, along the Kootenay River in Kootenay National Park and in the Glacier National Park to Quartz Creek area. However, due to high overwinter brood mortality in many areas the 1991 flight was greatly reduced from that of 1990, (see Pest Report 91-5).

Douglas-fir beetle killed about 3300 trees, down slightly from 3945 in 1990. Larger infestations at Whiteswan, Whitetail and McNaughton lakes continued as beetles in the heavily root-rotted stands mount search and destroy missions on the stressed trees.

Mature 2-year-cycle **spruce budworm** larvae lightly defoliated 1400 ha of alpine fir and Engelmann spruce in the St. Mary River and Bugaboo Creek drainages. Trace to light feeding by immature larvae was evident along the North White River and in side drainages of Vermilion River from Floe Creek to Marble Canyon.

Western hemlock looper populations increased in hemlock-cedar stands in the Quartz Creek to Gold River area along McNaughton Lake, but are still too few to cause defoliation.

Black army cutworm populations remained low in 1991, with moderate seedling mortality recorded only on one 10-15-ha infestation along Vowell Creek.

Vole populations increased with up to twenty four percent of the seedlings killed in high-elevation plantations from Fernie to north of Golden.

Foliage diseases increased in area and intensity from the high levels in 1990. On lodgepole pine, Lophodermella concolor infected year-old needles throughout the southern portion of the district and increased discoloration was present in the Invermere TSA. On western larch, Hypodermella laricis infection was common in most stands with severe to moderate infections in the Yahk and lower Moyie river drainages and in the Creston area. On trembling aspen, light to moderate foliage infection by Venturia macularis was common in most stands.

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