Forestry Canada Forêts Canada

PEST REPORT

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

FIDS 92-12

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MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE OUTBREAK IN THE WEST KOOTENAY: EARLY SEASON UPDATE

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After a mild winter, survival of the mountain pine beetle, Dendroctonus ponderosae was good in most areas of the region. Increasing populations are forecast in each of the remaining outbreak areas, except the upper Kettle River drainage where populations remain low (see Table). Inaccessible, scattered, small outbreaks in the northern half of the region were not sampled, but are expected to linger at current low levels due to restricted host availability.

Almost all broods were at the pupal or callow adult stages when sampled in mid June. With the beetle flight imminent, a significant increase in attack is expected. The impact may be compounded if recent extended, hot dry weather has increased host susceptibility.

Currently fading trees from 1991 attacks include patches of up to 25 ponderosa pine. These are scattered throughout the host range in southern section of the Boundary Forest District, most frequently in the Rock Creek to Bridesville, Midway, and Grand Forks areas. Collections from these trees have not yielded any western pine beetle, D. brevicomis, but are continuing. The red turpentine beetle, D. valens, has recently been collected from newly attacked trees and may be initiating mass attacks by the mountain pine beetle.

Further information about the extent and area of trees killed by beetle attacks in 1991 will be available after aerial surveys in early August.

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Table. Overwintering suvrival and populations status of the mountain pine beetle in the West Kootenay, FIDS, June 1992.

LOCATION (W to E)	"R" VALUE*	POPULATION STATUS
Boundary TSA		
Beaverdell	4.8	increasing
Cup Lake	0.9	decreasing
Kettle River	1.3	decreasing
Grano Creek	3.1	static
Boundary Creek	5.5	increasing
Burrell Creek	6.4	increasing
McRae Creek	5.2	increasing
Arrow TSA		
Big Sheep Creek	6.0	increasing
Nancy Greene Lake	4.9	increasing

*"R" value = an average population trend derived from the number of insects relative to the number of parent galleries originating within a representative spring bark sample at DBH:
<2.5 = decreasing population, 2.5-4.0 = static,
>4.0 = increasing.