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PEST REPORT

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

FIDS REPORT 92-14

AUGUST 1992

DOUGLAS-FIR TUSSOCK MOTH IN THE KAMLOOPS FOREST REGION, 1992

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Moderate to severe defoliation of Douglas-fir by the Douglas-fir tussock moth totaled 1800 ha in 50 separate infestations between Kamloops and Spences Bridge, up from 135 ha in 1991. New infestations occurred in scattered pockets from less than 5 ha to more than 100 ha from Cache Creek to Spences Bridge, along the Deadman River Valley, the north side of Kamloops Lake, at Iron Mask Hill near Kamloops, and near Barnhartvale. Defoliation occurred for the second consecutive year near Indian Gardens Creek and Six Mile Ranch, and followed five years of population increases in the region.

Most severely affected areas are primarily on ranch properties in the ponderosa pine and bunchgrass biogeoclimatic zones. Single Douglas-fir and ornamental spruce were defoliated in urban areas of Kamloops, the Okanagan Valley, and near Hedley.

The impact of the current outbreak on growth of Douglas-fir indicates that tree mortality and top-kill can be expected, particularly in areas severely defoliated for two years at Indian Gardens Creek and Brussels Lake, west of Kamloops.

Populations at five sites totaling more than 700 ha were treated with a nuclear polyhedrosis virus (NPV), by the B.C. Forest Service in cooperation with Forestry Canada. Defoliation intensity was reduced, and many areas treated last year showed very little or no signs of defoliation this year.

Results of larval parasitism and disease, and forecasts for 1993 based on male adults in traps and egg masses, will be reported later following data collection and analysis.

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