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PEST REPORT

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

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PINE NEEDLE CAST INFECTIONS DISCOLOR LODGEPOLE PINE STANDS IN THE CARIBOO FOREST REGION

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Pine needle cast, *Lophodermella concolor* severely infected and discoloured most year-old needles on most lodgepole pine over 512,000 ha in the central part of the region. This is up fivefold from 1993.

Most infected stands were in the 100 Mile House TSA where pines over 118,110 ha were severely affected, 173,840 ha moderately, and 12,000 ha lightly discoloured. The most severe damage occurred west of Chasm and north to 100 Mile House and near Bridge, Sulphurous and Loon lakes, similar to last year.

A large increase occurred in Williams Lake TSA mainly in the Chilcotin from Riske Creek to Tatla Lake, where 16,720 ha of severe, 186,920 ha moderate, and 11,280 ha of light discoloration occurred.

In the Quesnel TSA, southwest of Quesnel to the Nazko River discoloration was mapped over 2140 ha.

The major damage is to young lodgepole pine. Premature needle loss due to infection means a loss of growth potential for the year. Successive severe infections and premature defoliation could result in branch and top dieback, growth loss, and tree mortality on drier sites.

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