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EASTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM IN THE FORT NELSON FOREST DISTRICT

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

Eastern spruce budworm, *Choristoneura fumiferana*, damage increased for the second consecutive year, to over 166 000 ha of light defoliation (Map). Budworm populations have been defoliating white spruce and alpine fir for the last eleven years in the Fort Nelson Forest District. Over 163 000 ha of defoliation was recorded in 1993.

Damage was mapped in many of the same areas as in 1993. Defoliation was mapped from Fort Nelson to the Northwest Territories, west to Coal River area and near Liard Hot Springs. The largest area of defoliation was along the Fort Nelson River between Klua Creek and the Snake River. There was a small increase in area damaged along Kledo and Akue creeks, Muskwa and Prophet rivers and a small decrease along the Liard River. The infestation extends down the Fort Nelson and Fontas rivers into the Fort St. John District. The aerial survey in the Fort St. John area will be completed in July and the damage reported. In 1993 6 000 ha of light defoliation occurred in this area and similar damage is expected in 1994.

The impact of the defoliation over the area has been growth loss, scattered top kill, reduced cone crop and occasional tree mortality. Top kill and tree mortality occur occasionally along the Liard River near the Northwest Territories, in the Kledo and Steamboat Creek areas, along the Muskwa River and near Fort Nelson. Growth loss is being studied by Natural Resources Canada Damage Appraisal unit in cooperation with the B.C. Forest Service. Defoliation is being studied by Dr. H. Pine, Natural Resources Canada.

For further information please call the Forest Insect and Disease Survey, Canadian Forest Service at 363-0778.

PRINCE GEORGE – EASTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM – 1994

Natural Resources Canada
Canadian Forest Service
Forest Insect and Disease Survey
Scale 1: 4000000

STATISTICS:

	Ha:	Freq:
Light:	166355	145
Total:	166355	145

Reference Map
Prince George Forest Region

