

KOOTENAY NATIONAL PARK
P.O. BOX 220
RADIUM HOT SPRINGS, B.C.

PROGRESS REPORT
VERMILION BURN SMALL MAMMAL STUDY

MAY, 1975

by

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In this fourth season of the Vermilion Burn small mammal study, emphasis will be placed on keeping the data consistent and comparable to the work done in previous years. Transect-grid combinations will be used as in the 1973 study, with the traps placed as closely as possible in the positions they occupied in that year. Since grids and transects do not give identical results, the combination of grids and transects will be retained this year. This will enable the data to be compared with the first two studies (Shank, 1971 and Reid, 1972), which used only grids, and will also allow for further comparison of the two techniques. All trapping areas will be referred to by the same code names held in 1973. It is hoped to sample each of the twelve other areas once a month for a four or five day period with the exception of the Vista Lake trap line. Study skins and dried skulls will be prepared from any trap deaths.

During the last two weeks of May, I trapped in four areas (B-1, UB-1, K-3 and Vista Lake) for a total of 1368 trap half days. The results are given in Table 1. Trap success was low for UB-1 and K-3 because of the relative lack of exposure (animals are not as willing to enter freshly placed traps as they are to enter familiar ones) and also because of a high rate of bait stealing. Every time the traps were checked in UB-1 and the proximal portion of K-3, almost

However, as the chipmunks of the Vermilion burn area would be of *E. m. oreocetes* and *E. a. luteiventris*, these mean weights are probably of little value to this study. In the next few months an attempt will be made to look more closely at the possible presence of *E. minimus* in the study area.

Table 2 gives some mean weights and lengths of animals captured in May. It should be noted that these values include all individuals captured regardless of maturity or condition.

TABLE 1.

Captures during May, 1975.

	Trap ½ days	# of Individuals	# of Captures	Captures/ Individuals	Captures/ 100 trap ½ days	# of Deaths	Deaths/ 100 Captures
<u>Vista Lake</u>	480	21	46	2.19	9.58	1	2.17
<i>Clethrionomys</i>		5	6	1.2	-	-	-
<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>		1	1	1.0	-	1	-
<i>Peromyscus</i>		5	17	3.4	-	-	-
<i>Eutamias amoenus</i>		10	22	2.2	-	-	-
<u>B-1</u>	544	11	32	2.91	5.88	-	-
<i>Clethrionomys</i>		1	3	3.0	-	-	-
<i>Peromyscus</i>		10	29	2.9	-	-	-
<u>UB-1</u>	72	1	1	1	1.39	-	-
<i>Clethrionomys</i>		1	1	1	-	-	-
<u>K-3</u>	272	2	2	1	0.74	-	-
<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>		1	1	1	-	-	-
<i>Peromyscus</i>		1	1	1	-	-	-
<u>Overall Totals/Averages</u>	1368	35	71	2.03	5.19	1	1.41

TABLE 2. Mean length and weight of the animals captured during May, 1975.

	Average Length (mm)	Average Weight (gm)	Number of Individuals Captured
<i>Clethrionomys</i>	91.8	23.3	7
<i>Peromyscus</i>	87.2	20.4	11
<i>Eutamias amoenus</i>	109.0	48.7	10