

The hay rancher of the Northwest, Mr. Scheffer says, sustains some damage in clover and meadow grasses from the mountain beaver, but the gardener and berry grower have more cause for complaint. Strawberry plants, kale, cabbage, mangel tops, raspberry canes, pea vines, and the like form the bulk of the plunder. The valley rancher is particularly annoyed by the animal's persistent habit of frequenting and clogging up the blind ditches that drain his land. Damage to highways by mountain-beaver burrows passing under the roadbed has been reported by engineers. Although mountain beavers can not climb trees, they readily ascend the taller shrubs and saplings, both deciduous and evergreen, and trim off the terminal shoots for food, using the stubs of the branches as the rungs of a ladder to assist them in climbing. In winter, they girdle second-growth evergreens at a height, sometimes, of 3 feet or more from the ground.

The Biological Survey does not recommend a campaign of extermination against the mountain beaver, but realizes that measures must be taken to keep it within bounds in agricultural districts. Methods for trapping the animals and directions for preparing baits for poisoning them are given in detail in the bulletin.

Copies of the new Farmers' Bulletin 1598-F, may be had free on request addressed to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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