

## ABSTRACT

Author File

ADAPTATION OF MOUNTAIN BEAVERS (*Aplodontia rufa*) TO REMOVAL OF UNDERGROUND NESTS. D.L. Campbell, J.D. Ocheltree, and M.G. Carey. USDA, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Animal Damage Control, Olympia, WA.

Mountain beavers typically invade and occupy existing burrow systems after the residents have been removed to control damage to Douglas-fir plantations. These animals continue to cause tree damage. In this study, radio telemetry was used to evaluate nest removal for reducing reinvasion. Radio-collars were used to monitor individual animals; special pencil-type transmitters tied to nest materials helped locate nests and food caches. Paired treatments in a plantation and adjacent timber included removal of nests but not animals, removal of nests and animals, removal only of animals, and no removal of either nests or animals (controls). Mountain beavers soon took over vacated nests or used their own nearby food caches as new nests. Only one mountain beaver died from exposure after its nest was removed. The removal of nests by hand or with explosives does not appear to be a practical method to prevent reinvasion by mountain beavers in these habitats.