

EVALUATION OF THE REPELLENCY OF POWDERED
STARLING TO DEER AND MOUNTAIN BEAVERS.

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Starling (^(Abstract)Sturnus vulgaris) carcasses taken in damage control operations were processed into a powder and tested on 2-year-old Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) seedlings to reduce damage by penned black-tailed deer (Odocoileus hemionus columbianus) and free-roaming mountain beavers (Aplodontia rufa). Seedlings were sprayed with Rhoplex AC-33 adhesive (10% or 23% solids) and dusted with 2 or 3 g powdered starling (PS). After a 2-month exposure to dormant seedlings, deer browsed none of the PS treatment, 50% of the Rhoplex-only treatment, and 66% of the controls (n=130). After a 2-month exposure to treated growing seedlings, deer browsed 8% of the PS seedlings, 89% of the Rhoplex-only treatment, and 83% of the controls. Mountain beavers cut 13% of dormant PS seedlings when PS-treated cull seedlings were placed in burrows, 30% of PS seedlings when no culls were in burrows, and 81% of controls (n=144) after 2 months; damage to both PS treatments had increased to 54% and damage to controls was 96% after nearly 12 months. Powdered starling is a good candidate short-term repellent for deer and mountain beavers.