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Ecology, Behavior, and Nutrition of the Pika
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Project Number 180

Ecological, behavioral, and nutritional aspects of the Wyoming pika, *Ochotona princeps ventorum*, were studied in June, July, and August of 1971.

Four study areas were established: near Grassy Lake; on the west shore of String Lake; at the base of Granite Canyon; and on top of Rendezvous Peak. These four sites were chosen because of their diverse types of habitat. The four areas were compared with respect to differences in ecology, nutrition, and behavior of its inhabitants.

These plants were observed to have been eaten during the study period:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grassy Lake</th>
<th>String Lake</th>
<th>Granite Canyon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lodgepole pine</td>
<td>Potentilla sp.</td>
<td>Poa sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potentilla sp.</td>
<td>Aspen</td>
<td>Poa sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Carex geyeri</em></td>
<td><em>Carex sp.</em></td>
<td>Aspen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Carex hoodii</em></td>
<td>Serviceberry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Carex sp.</em></td>
<td>Poa sp.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild raspberry</td>
<td>Wild raspberry</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pikas at the Rendezvous Peak site were never observed to eat or "hay" up until the middle of August when the study was terminated.

In addition to this, a study of the mineral dynamics of the talus slope (the habitat of the pika) was made with respect to the plants inhabiting the slope and soil in and near the slope.

Analysis of plant and soil samples is being done at this time at LSUNO, but any conclusions at this time would be premature.

Thanks are extended to Bob Wood of Grand Teton National Park for assistance in locating sites, and to Bob and Jane Dorn, University of Wyoming, for identifying plant samples.

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