

FLOOK D.R

1959



CWS  
58-33

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

1M

CWS-33-58

SP-33

Flook, D.R.

Beaver stocking, east slope of Riding Mountain, 1958. [Edmonton, Canadian Wildlife Service] 1958.

4 l. charts.

1. Beaver - Riding Mountain National Park. 2. Riding Mountain National Park.

1 Title.



Beaver Stocking, East Slope of Riding Mountain, 1958.

As a result of my investigations of watershed conditions and beaver distribution on the east slope of Riding Mountain in 1957, I recommended that beaver be stocked in certain locations this season. Sites suitable for beaver to be established were selected on watersheds draining off the east escarpment. My original recommendation was that 50 beaver be livetrapped in Prince Albert Park and transported to Riding Mountain Park for the operation. Due to several factors it was decided to reduce the number to be brought from Prince Albert Park to 20 beaver. The drought in Riding Mountain had reduced runoff in some creeks to the point that beaver would have difficulty in surviving the initial period of establishing a colony. Also, a few colonies of beaver have appeared at sites on the west part of the park where they have dammed culverts and flooded the road, and one colony on Edwards Lake interferes with the flow of the Dauphin water supply. It was decided that beaver could be moved from those locations to the east slope to good advantage.

Twenty beaver were live trapped in the southern part of Prince Albert Park by Park Wardens C. Millard, Genge, Holden, E. Millard, Leader and Allen, August 25 to August 28. All of the beaver were sexed, ear tagged, foot marked, weighed and measured by Messrs. Pearson, Francis, and myself. The webs on the hind foot were punched with a leather punch to provide a secondary method of identification in case of loss of ear tags. Each hind foot provides 4 webs between toes. These were numbered from the left to designate the spaces punched on each animal. There was a surplus of females in the beaver trapped and it was deemed preferable to ship them rather than wait until more males could be taken. One beaver was a kit and was not shipped as experience of the Prince Albert Park Wardens has shown their chances of survival in transit to be low. The remaining 19 were shipped from Prince Albert by Canadian National Express on the afternoon of August 29. Francis and I drove from Waskesiu to Clear Lake August 28 and 29, and with Chief Warden Allen and Wardens Young and Cullen took delivery of the beaver at Dauphin on the morning of August 30.

On the morning of August 30, Warden Doane, Francis and I transported 5 beaver by jeep up Creek No. 1 which drains off the escarpment east of Kelwood. They were as follows:

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Left ear tag</u>	<u>Right ear tag</u>	<u>Foot mark</u>	<u>Weight (lbs.)</u>
M	1716	1715	2	53
F	1741	1740	18	52
F	1719	1720	3	28
F	1737	1736	16	24
F	1746	1745	23	27

Of the above the large pair were released  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of the Park boundary and the remaining 3 females 1 mile west of the Park boundary. The creek at both sites lies in a valley and has a fairly steep gradient and is strewn with boulders. The vegetation is alder, black and white poplars, and canoe birch. There is adequate soil for plastering lodges and dams.

On the afternoon and evening of August 30, Wardens Doane, Early, Assistant Warden Fillmester, G. Francis and I released four beaver in McKinnon Lake.

They were as follows:

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Left ear tag</u>	<u>Right ear tag</u>	<u>Foot mark</u>	<u>Weight (lbs.)</u>
M	1735	1734	123	42
F	1753	1752	24	44
M	1726	1727	6	58
F	1750	1749	14	50

The beaver were in individual boxes and we attempted to pack them on 2 horses. One horse packed two beaver but the other threatened to throw them off. We therefore left one horse and carried two beaver by hand. After travelling a short distance south from the Norgate road we entered in alder muskeg which the horse could not penetrate with pack boxes. From there we carried the four beaver by hand with great difficulty.

The lake is an excellent one for beaver, having plenty of aspen available and also several species of aquatic food plants. It appears to have poorly developed drainage into two creeks draining east. As the beaver multiply in the lake, the surplus can be expected to enter the creeks.

Following the difficulties encountered in transporting the beaver to McKinnon Lake I decided it would be necessary

to find a different method of transportation, as McKinnon Lake was the most easily accessible of the lakes to be stocked.

August 31 I drove to Rivers and met Wing Commander Wilson, R.C.A.F., at the Canadian Joint Air Training Center and told him our problem. He immediately agreed to make a helicopter available for the operation. It was agreed that a Sikorski helicopter would be at Clear Lake the following morning.

September 1, Captain Nichols, P.P.C.L.I., arrived at Clear Lake with the Sikorski at 8.30 a.m. The remaining ten beaver were transported to three release sites in four trips. The beaver were carried in individual drawstring canvas bags strapped to the seats inside the helicopter cabin. As the machine was not on floats Captain Nichols hovered over the water at 15 to 20 feet and I dumped each beaver out of the door. That method was quite satisfactory and the beaver could be seen swimming strongly to shore.

The beaver were distributed as follows:

Lake 9F - feeding the north fork of the Ochre River. This lake has a particularly good supply of aspen surrounding it. A pair of beaver trapped from the same lodge on Rabbit Creek in Prince Albert Park were released on the lake. They were:

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Left ear tag</u>	<u>Right ear tag</u>	<u>Foot mark</u>	<u>Weight (lbs.)</u>
M	1730	-	8	29
F	1732	1733	12	30

Lake 9E - feeding the second most northerly major fork of the Ochre River. This lake has a fair supply of aspen interspersed among white spruce bordering it. Six beaver were released in this lake, one male and five females. Three of them were as follows:

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Left ear tag</u>	<u>Right ear tag</u>	<u>Foot mark</u>	<u>Weight (lbs.)</u>
F	1718	1717	1	25
F	1748	1747	15	30
F	1746	1745	23	27

For a fourth female weighing about 30 lbs. data are not available. In addition a male and female were stocked in this lake and another male and female in lake 8A. In the rush of loading, so as not to delay the helicopter the numbers on those 4 beaver were not checked although the sexes were checked. The data on the four animals are as follows:

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Left ear tag</u>	<u>Right ear tag</u>	<u>Foot mark</u>	<u>Weight (lbs.)</u>
M	1724	1725	5	33
M	1729	1728	7	34
F	1722	1723	4	24
F	1739	1738	11	36

Lake 8A feeds Henderson Creek. It also has a good supply of aspen bordering it.

Stock from Prince Albert Park provided a ready source for the current operation and it was desirable from an operational standpoint to have a fair number of animals available at one time. However for future beaver management in Riding Mountain Park it is not likely that transplants of beaver from outside Riding Mountain Park will be necessary.

As it becomes desirable from time to time to remove beaver from the west end of the park where they occasionally dam culverts, they should be released in watersheds draining off the east slope. It would be desirable to release some in Dead Ox Creek, and Scott Creek if a way can be found to reach it. A very convenient release site is the lake fourteen miles north of Wasagaming on the east side of highway 10. There is a small colony of beaver in this lake now. The lake is at the head of the Ochre River. It is a large watershed which would carry large numbers of beaver to good advantage from a streamflow stabilizing standpoint. Beaver released in the lake are likely to move downstream and become established somewhere in the Ochre watershed.

As the beaver now on the east slope multiply and a few more are moved from the west end of the park, we can expect them to become well established in all of the watersheds of the east slope and contribute much to stabilizing the runoff.

*Donald R. Flook.*

Donald R. Flook,  
Wildlife Biologist.

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE  
WESTERN REGIONAL LIBRARY

CWS  
58-33 Flook, Donald R.  
Beaver stocking, East  
Slope of Riding  
... Mountain. 1958.

DATE	ISSUED TO

CWS  
( 58-33 Flook, Donald R. 1  
Beaver stocking, East  
Slope of Riding  
Mountain. 1958.

MAY 07 1997

INMAGIC

LIBRARY  
ENVIRONMENT CANADA  
PRAIRIE & NORTHERN REGION  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA