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Ashley, G. H. W.

The distribution and status of the
beaver of the Lower Bow River Valley,
Banff National Park. 1954.

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1. Beavers-Banff National Park.

THE DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS OF THE BEAVER
OF THE LOWER BOW RIVER VALLEY - BANFF NATIONAL PARK
* 1954 *

Report by Askey, G.H.W.

This report is in further reference to the reports made in 1944 and 1947, by H. U. Green.

Numerous changes have been made as to the distribution and status of the beaver in the area since the last investigation was conducted. These changes were brought about mainly through the environmental factors of food supply and interference of man.

The area covered by this investigation is the Bow Valley from the East Gate to Hillsdale. This terrain corresponds to wild-life research areas No. 1 and 2 as explained in the 1947 reports on the beaver of the valley involved. To enable comparison between the sites as they are at present and as they were at the time of the 1947 report the same site numbers are used. Additive sites are given new numbers.

The research areas to be considered are:

Area No. 1. East Gate to Banff including Two Jacks and Johnson Lakes area.

Area No. 2. Banff to Hillsdale.

The following material is the pertinent data derived, considered by areas, together with summary, abstract and map. Mapped sites outlined in red are live sites; those outlined in blue are abandoned.

Area No. 1.

<u>Site No. 1.</u>	Backwater of the Bow river.	ABANDONED
Location	Near mouth of Carrot creek	
Status	One family	
Food supply	Willow, completely exhausted	
Age	15 years	
Shelter	Den	
Live trapping	Not trapped	

This site was abandoned due to lack of food. It seems likely that these beavers moved to site No. 14.

<u>Site No. 2.</u>	Lake with dammed outlet.	
Location	East of Johnson lake.	
Status	Two families	
Food supply	Aspen poplar, sufficient for several years	
Age	About 17 years	
Shelter	Lodge and den	
Live trapping	Not trapped	

<u>Site No. 3.</u>	Creek with Dam.	
Location	Two Jacks creek, near Johnson lake	
Status	One family	
Food supply	Willow, completely exhausted	
Age	10 years	
Shelter	Den	
Live trapping	Not trapped.	

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This site was abandoned due to lack of food.

Site No. 4. Lake with canal outlet. ABANDONED
Location Two Jacks lake near Power Company's control dam
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar
Age About 11 years
Shelter Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped.

This family moved out due to continued construction in the area.

Site No. 5. Lake. ABANDONED
Location Stewart canyon, Lake Minnewanka
Status Not definitely known
Food supply Aspen Poplar, almost exhausted
Age 7 years
Shelter Den
Live trapping Not trapped.

This site was reported abandoned by the district warden.

Site No. 6. Diversion ditch with series of dams. ABANDONED
Location Bordering C.P.R. tracks, Banff
Status Two families
Food supply Willow, completely exhausted
Age 19 years
Shelter Dens, now caved in
Live trapping Not trapped.

Site No. 7. Swamp with series of dams. ABANDONED
Location North of spur of C.P.R. "Y" Banff
Status One family
Food supply Willow, completely exhausted
Age About 13 years
Shelter Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped

This site was abandoned due to drainage of pond in interest of mosquito control.

Site No. 8. Swamp with series of dams. ABANDONED
Location East of spur of S.P.R. "Y" Banff
Status One family
Food supply Willow, completely exhausted
Age About 17 years
Shelter Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped.

This site was abandoned due to drainage in interest of mosquito control.

Site No. 9. Swamp with series of dams. ABANDONED
Location North of old Moffat Farm, Banff
Status One family
Food supply Willow, completely exhausted
Age About 13 years
Shelter Den
Live trapping Not trapped.

This site was abandoned due to drainage in interest of mosquito control.

Site No. 10. Creek with dam. ABANDONED
Location West of C.P.R. "Y" Banff
Status One family
Food supply Willow, sufficient for a few years
Age About 14 years
Shelter Lodge
Live Trapping Not trapped.

This site was abandoned due to persistent interference in the interest of mosquito control.

Site No. 11. Creek with dam. ABANDONED
Location Beside hay barn, Government Corrals, Banff
Status One family
Food supply Willows, exhausted
Age About 11 years
Shelter Den
Live trapping Not trapped

This site was abandoned due to interference with normal water table, causing heaving of nearby highway

Site No. 12. Creek with dam. ABANDONED
Location Whisky Creek, near Government Corrals, Banff
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar, sufficient for several years
Age About 12 years
Shelter Den
Live trapping This site was trapped out due to raising of the normal water table. Still abandoned.

Site No. 13. Creek with dam. ABANDONED
Location North fork of Whisky Creek near C.P.R.
Status One family
Food supply Willow and some aspen poplar, sufficient for a few years.
Age About 10 years
Shelter Den
Live trapping Not trapped

This site was abandoned due to drainage in the interest of mosquito control.

NEW SITES

Site No. 14. Creek with dam
Location Mouth of Carrot creek, east of C.P.R.
Status One family
Food supply Aspen poplar and willow, sufficient for several years.
Age About 6 years
Shelter Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped.

Site No. 15. River.
Location On north bank of Bow river, near Duthill siding.
Status One family
Food supply Aspen poplar, sufficient for many years
Age About one year
Shelter Den
Live trapping Not trapped.

Site No. 16. Swamp with dam.
Location. South bank of swamp just north of Johnson lake.
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar and willow sufficient for several years
Age About 6 years
Shelter Bank Lodge
Live trapping Not Trapped

Site No. 17. Creek with dams.
Location Near Loop road on north side of Golf Course, Banff
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar and willow sufficient for several years
Age About 2 years
Shelter Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped

Site No. 18. Creek with series of dams.
Location Johnson beaver dams
Status Four families
Food supply Aspen Poplar, sufficient for several years.
Age About 7 years
Shelter Two dens and one large lodge
Live trapping Not trapped

Site No. 19. Creek with dams.
Location Two Jacks creek south of Johnson beaver dams
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar, almost exhausted
Age About 7 years
Shelter Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped

Area No. 2.

Site No. 1. Creek with no dam.
Location Echo creek near C.P.R. bridge
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar and willow, sufficient for several years
Age 13 years
Shelter Bank lodge
Live trapping Not trapped

Site No. 2. Lake.
Location 1st Vermilion lake
Status One family
Food supply Willow, indefinitely sufficient
Age About 17 years
Shelter Den
Live trapping Not trapped.

Site No. 3. Lake.
Location 2nd Vermilion lake
Status One family
Food supply Willow, indefinitely sufficient
Age About 17 years
Shelter Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped

Site No. 4. Channel with dam. ABANDONED
Location Channel between 2nd and 3rd Vermilion lakes.
Status Were two families
Food supply Aspen Poplar, entirely exhausted
Age About 19 years
Shelter Duplex lodge
Live trapping Not trapped

Site No. 5. Swamp with dams. ABANDONED
Location Mile 3½ on Banff - Jasper Highway.
Status One family

Site No. 5 cont'd.

Food supply Aspen Poplar, completely exhausted
Age About 22 years
Shelter Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped

Site No. 6. Swamp with dams. ABANDONED
Location Near sheep lick, 3rd Vermilion lake
Status One family
Food supply Willow, almost exhausted
Age About 19 years
Shelter Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped.

Site No. 7. Creek with dam. ABANDONED
Location 3rd Vermilion lake opposite gravel pit
Status Not definitely known
Food supply Aspen Poplar, exhausted
Age About 22 years
Shelter 4 lodges appear on this site, 3 of which have
Live trapping Not trapped. collapsed

Site No. 8. Creek.
Location Below mile 4 on the Banff - Jasper Highway
Status One family
Food supply Stand of Aspen Poplar at end of Canal
Age About 19 years
Shelter Lodge with old lodge beside it
Live trapping Not trapped.

Site No. 9. Swamp with dam. ABANDONED
Location Below mile $4\frac{1}{2}$ Banff - Jasper Highway
Status One family
Food Supply Aspen Poplar, exhausted
Age 19 years
Shelter Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped

Site No. 10. River.
Location Sawback bend of the Bow River
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar, sufficient for several years
Age At least 8 years
Shelter Den
Live trapping Not trapped

It seems likely that some of the beaver left this site and went to site No. 40.

Site No. 11. River.
Location Bow river near skating rink
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar
Age About 8 years
Shelter Den
Live trapping Not trapped

This site was reported to be active.

Site No. 12. Pond with dam, created by overflow from swimming pool.
Location Below Cave and Basin
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar and willow, scarce
Age About 19 years
Shelter Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped

<u>Site No. 13.</u>	Spring fed swamp with dam.	
Location	Between Cave and Basin and Rainy Bay	
Status	One family	
Food supply	Entirely willow, sufficient for a few years	
Age	About 9 years	
Shelter	Lodge	
Live trapping	Not trapped.	
<u>Site No. 14.</u>	Bow river and backwater	ABANDONED
Location	Rainy Bay	
Status	About 3 families	
Food supply	Willow, exhausted or killed by flooding	
Age	About 19 years	
Shelter	Lodges and dens	
Live trapping	Not trapped.	
<u>Site No. 15.</u>	Spring fed pond with dam,	ABANDONED
Location	West end of Rainy Bay	
Status	One family	
Food supply	Willow, exhausted	
Age	About 9 years	
Shelter	Dense	
Live trapping	Not trapped.	
<u>Site No. 16.</u>	Swamp.	ABANDONED
Location	Continuation of Rainy Bay.	
Status	One family	
Food supply	Willow, exhausted	
Age	19 years	
Shelter	Lodge	
Live trapping	Not trapped.	
<u>Site No. 17.</u>	Swamp, from damming creek.	
Location	Continuation of Rainy Bay, near Sundance creek bridge.	
Status	One family	
Food supply	Willow, exhausted	
Age	About 17 years	
Shelter	Lodge	
Live trapping	Not trapped.	
<u>Site No. 18.</u>	Swamp.	ABANDONED
Location	Continuation of Rainy Bay	
Status	One family	
Food supply	Willow, exhausted	
Age	22 years	
Shelter	Lodge	
Live trapping	Not trapped	
<u>Site No. 19.</u>	Swamp.	ABANDONED
Location	Continuation of Rainy Bay	
Status	One family	
Food supply	Willow, exhausted	
Age	22 years	
Shelter	Lodge	
Live trapping	Not trapped.	
<u>Site No. 20.</u>	Swamp.	ABANDONED
Location	Continuation of Rainy Bay	
Status	One family	
Food supply	Willow and Aspen Poplar, exhausted	
Age	22 years	
Shelter	Lodge	
Live trapping	Not trapped.	

The beaver in the Rainy Bay area, due to flooding and exhaustion of food supply, have vacated the Bay, apparently moving into the river.

Site No. 21. Swamp with dams. ABANDONED
 Location Mouth of Healy creek
 Status 3 families
 Food supply Aspen Poplar and willow, exhausted
 Age 22 years
 Shelter Lodges
 Live trapping Not trapped.

Site No. 22. Swamp with dam. ABANDONED
 Location Across from 7 mile on Banff - Jasper Highway
 Status 5 families
 Food supply Willow, exhausted
 Age 25 years
 Shelter Lodges
 Live trapping Not trapped

Site No. 23. Creek with dam. ABANDONED
 Location Near Massive bridge
 Status One family
 Food supply Aspen Poplar and willow exhausted
 Age 27 years
 Shelter Lodge
 Live trapping Not trapped

Reported still abandoned.

Site No. 24. Creek with dam. ABANDONED
 Location Near Massive bridge
 Status One family
 Food supply Aspen Poplar and willow, exhausted
 Age 25 years
 Shelter Lodge
 Live trapping Not trapped.

Reported still abandoned.

Site No. 25. Creek with dam. ABANDONED
 Location Near Massive Bridge
 Status One family
 Food supply Aspen Poplar and willow, exhausted
 Age 22 years
 Shelter Lodge
 Live trapping Not trapped.

The following sites have been established since 1947:-

Site No. 26. Creek with no dam
 Location East bank of Echo Creek half way to 1st lake
 Status One family
 Food supply Aspen Poplar and willow sufficient for many years
 Age About 2 years
 Shelter Den
 Live trapping Not trapped.

Site No. 27. Lake with dammed outlet.
 Location 1st Vermilion lake
 Status One family
 Food supply Willow and few Poplar, sufficient for several years.
 Age 3 years
 Shelter Lodge
 Live trapping Not trapped

Site No. 28. Lake
 Location 2nd Vermilion lake on Highway
 Status One beaver
 Food supply Aspen Poplar
 Age 1 year
 Shelter Den with lodge porch
 Live trapping Not trapped.

- Site No. 29: Chamel with dam.
Location Just south of tourist pond
Status One family
Food supply Entirely willow sufficient for a few years
Age About 5 years
Shelter Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped.
- Site No. 30: Swamp with dam.
Location Backwater of site No. 29., near C.P.R. tracks
Status 3 families
Food supply Chiefly willow and some Aspen Poplar; good stand.
Age About 4 years
Shelter Lodges
Live trapping Not trapped.
- Site No. 31: Spring fed pond and dam.
Location Below sheep trap, in bank of C.P.R. grade
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar, sufficient for several years
Age 1 year
Shelter Den
Live trapping Not trapped.
- Site No. 32: River.
Location South bank of Bow river near mouth of Rainy Bay
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar and willow, almost exhausted
Age About 3 years
Shelter Bank Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped.
- Site No. 33: River.
Location North bank of Bow river across from Rainy Bay
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar sufficient for several years
Age About 1 year
Shelter Den
Live trapping Not trapped.
- Site No. 34: River.
Location South bank of Bow river 250 yards above site No. 32.
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar, sufficient for several years
Age About 6 years
Shelter Bank Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped.
- Site No. 35: Lake.
Location South bend of Mule Shoe lake west of C.P.R.
Status One family
Food supply Aspen Poplar, almost exhausted
Age 5 years
Shelter Bank Lodge
Live trapping Not trapped.
- Site No. 36: Swamp.
Location South of Mule Shoe lake
Status 3 families
Food supply Aspen Poplar, sufficient for several years
Age 2 years
Shelter Large lodge and dens
Live trapping Not trapped.

SUMMARY OF DISTRIBUTION, STATUS, ETC.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Site No.</u>	<u>New or Old</u>	<u>Est. Population</u>	<u>Trapped</u>
No.1.	1	Old	Abandoned (6)	N11
	2	Old	12	N11
	3	Old	Abandoned (6)	N11
	4	Old	Abandoned (6)	N11
	5	Old	Abandoned (4)	N11
	6	Old	Abandoned (12)	N11
	7	Old	Abandoned (6)	N11
	8	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	9	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	10	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	11	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	12	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	13	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	14	New	6	N11
	15	New	6	N11
	16	New	6	N11
	17	New	6	N11
	18	New	24	N11
	19	New	6	N11
No.2.	1	Old	4	N11
	2	Old	6	N11
	3	Old	6	N11
	4	Old	Abandoned (14)	N11
	5	Old	Abandoned (6)	N11
	6	Old	Abandoned (6)	N11
	7	Old	Abandoned (?)	N11
	8	Old	6	N11
	9	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	10	Old	6	N11
	11	Old	6	N11
	12	Old	6	N11
	13	Old	6	N11
	14	Old	Abandoned (18)	N11
	15	Old	Abandoned (6)	N11
	16	Old	Abandoned (6)	N11
	17	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	18	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	19	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	20	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	21	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	22	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	23	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	24	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	25	Old	Abandoned*	N11
	26	New	6	N11
	27	New	6	N11
	28	New	1	N11
	29	New	6	N11
	30	New	18	N11
	31	New	6	N11
	32	New	6	N11
	33	New	6	N11
	34	New	6	N11
	35	New	6	N11
	36	New	18	N11

Abandoned sites marked (*) were abandoned before 1947.

ABSTRACT

Sites, 1944	34	Sites abandoned 1944-47	14
Sites established 1944-47	8	Sites abandoned 1947-54	13
Sites established 1947-54	17	Sites abandoned 1944-54	<u>27</u>
Sites established 1944-54	<u>25</u>	Sites trapped out 1944-47	2
Total sites, 1954	<u>59</u>	Sites trapped out 1947-54	-
		Sites trapped out 1944-54	<u>2</u>
		Total site losses 1944-54	<u>29</u>
Site gains 1944-54	25	Sites losses 1944-54	4

Status

Estimated population 1944	248 (approx:)	
Estimated population 1947	170 (approx:)	
Estimated population 1954	197 (approx:)	
Estimated losses by abandonment 1944-47	117	
Estimated losses by abandonment 1947-54	96	
Estimated losses by abandonment 1944-54	<u>213</u>	Total
Losses by trapping 1944-47	60	
Losses by trapping 1947-54	---	
Losses by trapping 1944-54	<u>60</u>	Total
	<u>273</u>	Total Losses

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