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SEQUOIA NATURE GUIDE SERVICE

Mountain Beaver Population Increasing in Sequoia

The Mountain Beaver population is increasing rapidly at Giant Forest. New activities are to be seen in many places along the creek that flows through camp. Three mother beavers have recently come out with their young and are often seen feeding in family groups. The first young beavers were noted outside their burrows this season on June 10th and they number from three to five in a family. They are less than one-third grown, somewhat brighter in color than the adults and very active. They are excellent swimmers. When out of their burrows they run rapidly when frightened. The mother beaver cares for her young with strong motherly instinct and apprises them of approaching danger; but the father beaver takes but little interest in family affairs other than by helping to excavate the burrows and nest galleries of their homes and in garnering food supplies.

The food of the beavers at this time of the year consists principally of creek dogwood, ferns, currants, violets, and thimble berries. The mother beaver when out feeding, occasionally utters soft low grunting sounds apparently to keep her young in touch with her whereabouts.

The Mountain Beaver's vision is short but its sense of smell is excellent, and it is a splendid trailer on the tracks of its own species. Its hearing is acute and it relies more on this for protection than on sight.

Mountain Beavers first made their appearance in the Giant Forest camp on June 5, 1919. Although their numbers fluctuate they cover a large area and the patient observer may at any time be rewarded by a sight of this interesting and somewhat rare animal.

One woman camper complained to the Superintendent that a bold beaver in full daylight was nibbling and destroying the ferns which beautified her camp.