

Ecology, Behavior, and Nutrition of the Pika
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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:

<u>Grassy Lake</u>	<u>String Lake</u>	<u>Granite Canyon</u>
Lodgepole pine	<u>Potentilla</u> sp.	<u>Poa</u> sp.
<u>Potentilla</u> sp.	Aspen	<u>Poa</u> sp
<u>Carex geyeri</u>	<u>Carex</u> sp.	Aspen
<u>Carex hoodii</u>	Serviceberry	
<u>Carex</u> sp.	<u>Poa</u> sp.	
Wild raspberry	Wild raspberry	
	Unknown	

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.

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