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Field Testing Required for Boomer-Rid Mountain Beaver Bait

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The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires field efficacy tests to continue Special Local Needs registration of Boomer-Rid bait in Oregon for control of mountain beaver damage to reforestation. Efficacy data are also needed to register Boomer-Rid in Washington. Previous cooperative damage control tests by Oregon State University and forest industry users indicated that the bait reduced damage on some areas but was less effective on other areas. Recently, the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) field station at Olympia, Washington ran limited radio telemetry tests that indicated high efficacy of the bait formulation tested. The bait killed 100% of the radioed animals tested.

To meet EPA requirements, APHIS is planning to determine the lowest strychnine concentration in Boomer-Rid that will consistently give good control of mountain beaver populations. If this study is funded it will determine efficacy of underground use of six concentrations of strychnine (0% to 0.99%) in the pelleted bait manufactured by Oregon Rodent Control Outfitters (ORCO). Plans are to evaluate the baits on free-roaming radioed mountain beavers in six clearcuts in early 1989 to select the most effective bait concentrations for further testing. Large operational field tests will then be required in 1990 to evaluate the most effective bait concentrations. The most effective bait concentration will then be registered and be available for control of mountain beaver in the Pacific Northwest.

Editor's Note: Boomer-Rid is currently registered and available for use in Oregon as a .31% strychnine bait for below ground control of mountain beaver.