

PHYSICAL STRUCTURE, FLORA AND FAUNA OF  
MOUNTAIN BEAVER NESTS. M.G. Carey, D.L.  
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Twenty eight mountain beaver (Aplodontia rufa) nests in a 1-yr old burned and planted clear-cut were excavated and examined. Physical measurements taken included depth below ground and size of nest cavity. Nest material was collected from eight nests and sorted into vegetation types. Arthropods were collected from nest material by visual search and Berlese funnel. Depths of mountain beaver nests averaged 74 cm, ranging from 30 to 183 cm. Nest chambers were roughly egg shaped, averaging 51 cm long, 43 cm high and 43 cm wide; chambers usually had one entrance. Available plants were still sparse since slash burning. Nests consisted of the most common plants available that were not utilized as food, such as groundsel (Senecio sp.), horsetails (Equisetum sp.), thistle (Cirsium spp.) and mosses. Arthropods were primarily mountain beaver fleas (Hystriehopsyllidea schefferi), pseudoscorpions, mites and at least 3 families of beetles (Staphylinidae, Scarabaeidea, and Histeridae).