

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK
Bar Harbor, Maine

October 15, 1963

REPORT TO: Superintendant, Acadia National Park

FROM: Harry F. Betros

SUBJECT: Report on a Survey of the Beaver Population
in Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island,
Maine

PERIOD OF STUDY: July - August 1963

Below is a list of all areas covered, indicating whether beaver activity is non-existent; evident, but no longer active; or evident and active. Included also will be information regarding extent of damage to surrounding area, type of trees destroyed, trees upon which beaver are feeding or cutting for building purposes.

HODGDON POND

The lodge is located toward the center of the pond, among the marsh grasses and sedges. It is difficult to see without binoculars, and best seen from the east shore. Beaver have at present dammed the outlet culvert beneath the service road passing between Hodgdon and Seal Cove Ponds. At least three small dams are situated just below the culvert. Some feeding and cutting of Alders is evident there. A single beaver was sighted.

HODGDON BROOK

Upper portion of brook leads into a large beaver meadow at least 200 yards wide and about 400 yards long. Many dead trees evident throughout the marsh.

STEWART BROOK

No evidence of beaver activity.

BROOK NORTH OF STEWART BROOK ON SEAL COVE POND

No evidence of beaver activity.

MARSH EAST OF HODGDON POND

No evidence of beaver activity.

DUCK POND

A large area much overgrown to grass heaths and small shrubs. Numerous trees in pond at south end killed. Open water mostly in center and toward north end. Old dam evident at north end although much overgrown and obscured. No evidence of current activity.

GREAT BROOK

Two large meadows (at least 50 yds. across) observed, mostly grown to grass meadows. Two dams spotted still much intact and a single lodge. Dams hold back little water. Normal brook flow passes through openings in the dams. No current activity evident.

MARSH SOUTHEAST OF BALD MOUNTAIN (NORTH OF NORWOOD RIDGE)

A very large meadow, about 100 yards wide and at least a mile long. Much of the meadow on either side overgrown to heaths and sphagnum moss. Dam over 100 yards long, located about midway in the marsh. In this area there is a great deal of open water. Numerous medium sized trees have been killed by flooding of the area dammed. Lodge is located to the north of the dam, but obscured by the dead trees.

Numerous dry beaver runs observed in the south shore, among Alders. Feeding is principally on Alders, which abounds along the shore. Spotted a single beaver only, although confident that there are others. They are difficult to observe here because only a relatively small portion of the open water is visible from the shore or dam.

BROOK NORTH OF BALD MOUNTAIN

A couple of washed out dams can be seen. No present beaver activity observed.

SWAMP AREA BETWEEN KELLYTOWN ROAD AND SEAL COVE ROAD (NORTH OF MURPHY SWAMP)

Pond just south of Seal Cove Road abandoned, believed due to trapping. Lodge evident.

Pond just north of Kellytown Road too low to permit beaver activity.

Both ponds becoming overgrown to sedges and heaths.

BROOK SOUTHWEST OF BURNT HILL

Dry at present. No evidence of beaver activity.

HALFWAY BROOK

Dry at present. No evidence of beaver activity.

LURVEY BROOK

Broken old dam observed at junction of brook and fire road. No evidence of present activity.

MURPHY SWAMP

No evidence of beaver activity.

CANADA HOLLOW

Signs of a dam exist about a hundred yards from Echo Beach. Stream relatively shallow. No evidence of current beaver activity.

LURVEY SPRING

No evidence of beaver activity.

MARSH SOUTH OF FIRE ROAD NEAR TREMONT ENTRANCE

No evidence of beaver activity.

BUTTERMILK BROOK (Marshall Brook - lower)

Evidence of several dams on main stream, no longer intact. Southwest branch leading to China Hill, water too low for current activity, no other signs evident to indicate activity. Observed two large dams and at least three smaller ones. Lodge is also evident.

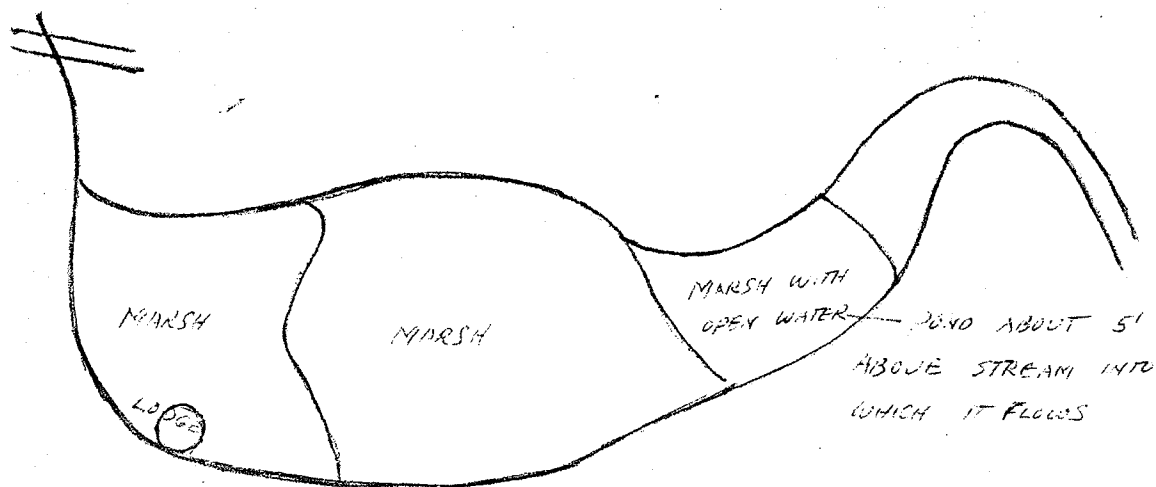
EAST TRIBUTARY OF BUTTERMILK BROOK

Several dams overgrown to grasses evident, only the largest of which nearest the main stream, still intact and damming a great deal of water.

No lodge observed and no evidences of current activity observed.

STREAM SOUTH OF GILLEY FIELD (MARSHALL BROOK)

West tributary of this stream is a large pond and marsh (see diagram below). There are at least three main ponds, the third of which contains open water, but shallow. Ponds #1 and #2 are mostly meadows. Lodge is located in meadow #1. No evidence of current activity here.



Stream was followed southward, contains at least a dozen small dams, some intact and holding water, others damaged and holding back no water. No evidence of current beaver activity along this stream was observed except in the alder swamp just north of Seal Cove Road. Fresh cutting of Alder was observed. In the alder swamp just south of Seal Cove Road more active cutting of alder was observed and sighted a single beaver.

Following the stream southward, no other evidence of beaver activity was observed except where the stream runs close to the fire road. An intact dam was observed here. West branch of Marshall, an old broken dam observed, but no recent beaver activity.

STREAM CROSSING FIRE ROAD ABOUT THREE FOURTHS OF A MILE FROM HIGHWAY #102 H10?

Stream running north of fire road, no evidence of beaver activity. Stream running south of fire road terminates into a marsh consisting of three separate ponds, each separated by a dam. Area is about 40 yards wide and 200 yards long, and almost completely a grass meadow with some trees moving in. A single lodge is evident, no current beaver activity.

MARSH EAST OF GRAVEL PIT IN MCKINLEY

Two dams evident, much overgrown with grass and shrubs. Lodge was also evident. The water level was very low. No evidence of current beaver activity.

STREAM RUNNING THROUGH BASS HARBOR MARSH TOWARD SEAWALL

Two intact dams noted, a third broken. Little water behind dam #1 at the North end of the stream. Sighted a single beaver in stream North of dam #1. Followed stream South toward Big Rocks. No further activity observed in this area. Most of marsh is overgrown to heaths. Open stream relatively small. No signs of feeding or cutting observed here.

? SEAWALL POND

Pond much overgrown to heaths and very dense. Although I have not seen beaver here, local individuals interested in beaver have reported seeing a pair here during the summer.

✓ AUNT BETTY POND

Four lodges were located here. There are at least 3 small dams leading from Aunt Betty Pond to Richardson Brook. Many beaver runs leading to nearby aspen and alder. Although I did not sight any beaver, there is plenty of evidence of their presence.

✓ BROOK EAST OF AUNT BETTY POND

✕ Sighted three small dams on stream between culvert and east meadow. Lodge was sighted in east meadow. Culvert between Aunt Betty Pond and stream dammed beneath the road bed. There is no doubt that there is activity here, although I did not spot any beaver.

✓ GILMORE MEADOW

✕ An active colony exists here at present. The culvert beneath service road dammed. Fresh cutting observed. The beaver here are being trapped by the Park Service Rangers. It was reported that two adults and one kit trapped here, a second kit also trapped was drowned. The three live trapped beaver were re-located along Little Harbor Brook. Lodge not visible here.

? RICHARDSON BROOK

- (a) Main stream west of Aunt Betty Pond, two small dams located.
- (b) North tributary along Eagle Lake Road, evidence of past activity exists where brook intersects road south of Sunken Heath. An old lodge found as well as other evidence such as runs, cuttings, etc. No recent activity noted.
- (c) Pond just south of Eagle Lake Road, a one time beaver pond, now overgrown to grasses and sedges. Evidence of dam still exists, no current activity.
- (d) West tributary leading to Somes Sound, at upper end of tributary, dams are evident and a large marsh indicating past activity. No signs of recent activity observed.

STREAM RUNNING THROUGH SOUTHWEST VALLEY (SEE PAGE 5)

✕ SARGENT BROOK - No evidence of beaver activities.

CHASM BROOK

NA No evidence of beaver activities at present. Two dams destroyed just north of carriage road which encircles the southeastern portion of the meadow.

BROOK RUNNING THROUGH WILDCAT VALLEY

NA No evidence of beaver activities. Most of the brooks ran dry not too far upstream.

? UPPER HADLOCK POND - No evidence of beaver activities. ?

HADLOCK BROOK - No evidence of beaver activities.

NORTH EAST HARBOR BROOK - No evidence of beaver activities.

SUNKEN HEATH - No evidence of beaver activities.

KITTERIDGE BROOK - No evidence of beaver activities.

PRAYS BROOK - No evidence of beaver activities.

NORTHEAST CREEK

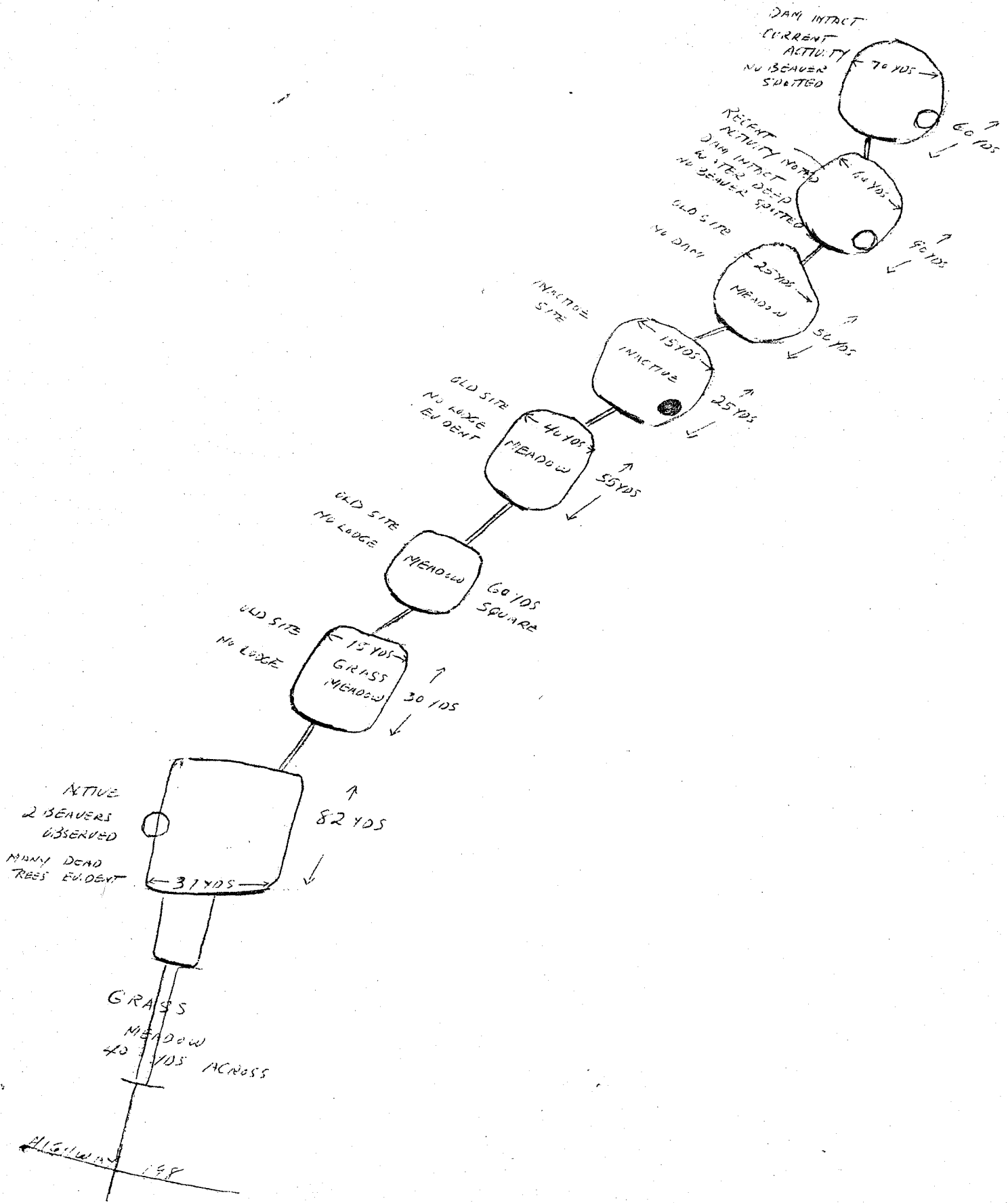
South tributary, spotted an old lodge but no evidence of dams or recent activity. North tributary, no evidence of beaver activity.

✕ AUNT BETSEYS BROOK Not in file.

NA Located two dams along brook north of culvert (see map location,) lodge observed. Some evidence of recent activity also observed.

STREAM RUNNING THROUGH SOUTHWEST VALLEY (Reference Page 4)

The entire brook almost from Highway 198 to the Service Road shows evidence of either past or present activity. Details on diagram below.



LAKE WOOD

Located an old bank lodge in the east shore. No recent beaver activity observed.

FAWN POND

The water is relatively low and separated from a dry portion of the pond by an old dam. A lodge is situated in the center of the existing pond. No evidence exists of current beaver activity.

STREAM NORTH OF LAKE WOOD

NP Signs of past activity exists, but there is no current activity. Practically no water passes into the stream.

✓ BREAKNECK BROOK (near Eagle Lake)

In the portion south of lower Breakneck, 2 dams evident, east of carriage road, which have been broken. The lodge is also evident nearby. The water is low and no evidence of current activity has been observed.

Along the northern section of the brook between the upper pond and Hales Cove, no evidence was observed of any activity except in the portion nearest upper Breakneck Pond.

✓ UPPER BREAKNECK POND

The dam is located at the North end about 160 yards long and damming water from 6-7 ft. above the stream level. A second smaller dam (12-15 ft. long) is located farther along the brook.

Two beavers were sighted on the pond at the south end where the lodge is situated. Some activity has also been noted in the marsh northeast of the pond.

✓ LOWER BREAKNECK POND

The culvert between the lower and upper Breakneck Ponds is dammed. The lodge is situated at the north end of the pond. Although no activity has been observed by me, activity there has been reported to me by other individuals.

✓ HALFMOON POND

The lodge is located along the south shore and a single beaver was sighted. There is some cutting of alders along the south side of the pond.

? WITCH HOLE POND

A bank lodge and 2 others were located at the north end of the pond. A small grove of trees has been destroyed by flooding at the south end of the pond. This represents the only damage to trees on this pond. Although I did not spot any beaver, their activity has been reported to me. The lowland located north of the Pond across the service road shows evidence of numerous alders and other small trees destroyed by flooding. Some of these are sprouting from their roots. A small lodge was observed on the east side of the lowland. Current activity is doubtful.

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✓ MARSH EAST OF WITCH HOLD POND

The main dam is located adjacent to the service road and is about 20 yards long. Although this had been partially opened at several points, there is still considerable water in the pond. The pond is at a level of about 5 feet above the stream leading to the bay. The culvert beneath the service road was also dammed and recently torn out. The lodge was located about 30-40 yds. north and west of the dam. No beaver were sighted although beaver activity believed probable.

✓ DUCK BROOK AND NEW HILL MEADOW

Southeast tributary - a pond is created by beaver activity and a considerable area inundated. Many dead trees and stumps provides evidence of this activity. An irregular dam about 50 yards long dams the water on the east side of New Eagle Lake Road. A lodge is situated in the pond not more than 10 yards from the road. Startled a single beaver in this area. The dam has since been broken by Park Service employees.

✓ In the brook and meadow, west of New Eagle Lake Road (identified as site A on map), a great deal of activity is evident. At the south end where the culvert runs beneath New Eagle Lake Road, the culvert is dammed in several places. A small pond has been created nearby, by a dam of about 20 yards long. Beyond the main beaver pond running through the meadow are four smaller dams. A lodge is situated in the main pond against a large boulder. In the area of the main pond, there is evidence of much activity among the alders, willows and even maples. Much recent cutting is observed.

➤ A second large meadow exists to the west of this pond (site B on map) where numerous trees have been innundated and killed. There is no evidence of current activity here. The water level is very low.

➤ A third large meadow where numerous trees have been killed by innundation is located south of the meadow previously mentioned (site C on map). There is no evidence of current activity here.

The large pond in which Duck Brook empties just south of the pump house is dammed by what appears to be a man made dam of rocks, permitting a small quantity of water to pass. West of the pump house, another large dam overgrown to shrubs exists, but which is no longer intact. No beaver were spotted by me, but there was no doubt about their presence.

While I was observing this area, the main dam and several others (at site A on map) were torn out by Park Service employees, on at least 4 or 5 occasions within a week or two. Each time the dam was rebuild, indicating their presence. A live trap placed on the pond failed (while I was there) to capture a single beaver.

✓ New evidence of cutting and feeding, not previously observed was found along New Eagle Lake Road, just south of the pumping station. This activity started after the dams referred to above were torn out. At least a dozen fresh cut aspens and some alder were observed, some of the material lying in the pond below.

MARSH NORTHEAST OF EAGLE LAKE

Two old dams have been observed, these dams are grown over with brush and shrubs. The water is low here and no recent beaver activity is observed.

STREAM SOUTH OF EAGLE LAKE

No evidence of beaver activity observed.

STREAM WEST OF EAGLE LAKE

No evidence of beaver activity observed.

STREAM EAST OF EAGLE LAKE (South of the White Cap)

No evidence of beaver activity.

? BUBBLE POND

No evidence of beaver activity. ?

✓ BUBBLE BROOK

Culvert leading to Eagle Lake dammed. Considerable activity has been observed in the pond and meadow southeast of the culvert.

The dammed culvert referred to above was opened on many occasions by the Park Service personnel. Two adult beavers and one kit was trapped alive here by the Park Service Personnel. A second kit also caught was drowned. The trapped beaver were taken to Little Harbor Brook.

✓ LONG POND (East Hudson) Not in Park

No evidence of beaver activity was observed on the pond proper, but considerable evidence is present on the meadow at the north end. The dam has been located between the Jordan stream and Long Pond. No lodge was sighted. At the north end where the trail crosses the stream, at least 7 dozen large aspen were cut or in the process of being cut. Some were lying on the ground, still with green leaves. There are several long runs along which cut logs were dragged, one of which measured 50 yards long. These runs were muddy, although there were pools of water only in a couple of places along the runs.

✓ LITTLE HARBOR BROOK

When first observed, no evidence of beaver activities was observed. An extensive level area along the brook at one point (flood plain-like area) may have harbored beaver activity at one time. There is no concrete evidence now.

After learning of the Park Service activities in relocating beaver there from other problem areas, I made a second trip along the brook. No beaver were sighted, but I did observe slight cutting of a single clump of alder. Other evidence was found on the brook itself on at least two locations. In each case the material was slight. No dams or even beginnings of dams was observed.

According to the information passed on to me, four beaver were freed along the brook, I was present on one occasion. From my observations, there seems little available food material to support many beaver along the brook.

STANLEY BROOK

No evidence of beaver activity.

BROOK NORTH OF INGRAHAM POINT

No evidence of beaver activity.

HUNTERS BROOK

No evidence of beaver activity.

BROOKS BETWEEN CONNERS NUBBLE AND SOUTHWEST PASS

No evidence of beaver activity.

BROOK WEST OF SOUTHWEST PASS

No evidence of beaver activity.

✓ BROOK SOUTH OF SOUTHWEST PASS (leading to Jordan Pond)

A dam and lodge are situated at the North end of Jordan Pond. Numerous runs into alders and birches observed. Some of these run as much as 25 yards into the woods. Although no beaver were seen, there is current activity.

CREEK NORTH OF TOWN OF OTTER CREEK

No evidence of beaver activity.

CANON BROOK AND TRIBUTARIES

No evidence of beaver activity.

OTTER CREEK

North end of Otter Creek along Canon Brook Trail. Bank lodge evident. An old dam observed which serves as part of the trail mentioned above. No current beaver activity.

✓ SOUTH END OF OTTER CREEK

About 25 yards northwest of Otter Creek Road a large pond about 50 yards wide and 150 yards long is situated. The main dam is very irregular and over 100 yards long. At one point the dam is at least 5 feet above the stream, fed by the pond. The lodge was never seen. This was probably due to a great number of dead trees standing or laying on the pond which may have obscured it. Some fresh cutting observed at the north end of the pond. Above the main pond (north) are at least five smaller dams, at least two of which were destroyed. Since there is evidence of current activity these broken dams may have been washed out.

✓ SAND BEACH

A small pond exists in the area just south of Schoonerhead Road where it joins Ocean Drive. There is much cutting of aspen, birch and alder on all sides of the pond. The lodge is evident on the north side of the pond. Two adults and one kit was observed and a second kit is believed also present. Several long beaver runs are evident on all sides, one which runs into the large aspens just below the Rangers house about 60 yards long.

THE BOWL

No beaver activity observed.

MEADOW AND STREAM, SOUTHEAST OF ENOCH MOUNTAIN

No beaver activity observed.

✓ STREAM AND MEADOW NORTH OF CRANBERRY HILL *Kunt Field*

The main dam measures about 25 yards across. Four small dams seen along the stream, acting like a series of locks. The lodge was evident in the pond.

Current activity was observed along the stream, as well as among the alders surrounding the pond. At the north end, long runs lead into the aspen groves where there is extensive cutting.

THE TARN

No evidence of beaver activity.

✓ GREAT MEADOW

The lodge was evident but difficult to see without penetrating the swamp. Two dams were located on the east brook, north of the culvert. Some evidence of recent activity is indicated by recently cut aspens. There are several smaller dams at the North end of the meadow where it drains into Cromwell Brook. One of the dams was broken. A bank lodge was observed here. No evidence of current activity here was observed.

CROMWELL BROOK

No evidence of beaver activity. This stream is too dirty to support beaver activity. This is the only stream which I observed being abused by persons and industry along its banks.

✓ BEAVERDAM POND

Several small dams were observed near the culvert at the north end. A great deal of recent cutting was observed at the southwest end of the pond among the aspen grove. Several long runs lead from the aspens to the pond. No lodge was located here.

✓ BEAR BROOK

There were several small dams along this brook. The wooded area just north of the Ocean Drive was somewhat flooded and considerable evidence of current activity exists.

This complete my report. Due to the extensive areas covered I did not have sufficient time for long observations of many of these areas. While the report indicates the areas of current activity, there is no fair estimate of the current population. It is hoped that another summer at Acadia (possibly as a Ranger) will enable me to carry this study farther during my free time.