

LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK
Research Library

State of California
Department of Agriculture, Bureau of
Weed and Vertebrate Pest Control
Room 8A - 2135 Akard Avenue
Redding, California

Attention: Rollo E. Talbert

December 13, 1966

Plague Surveillance and
Control - Lassen National
Park - 1966

Bureau of Vector Control

Following is a brief summary of the plague surveillance and control activities in Lassen Park during the summer of 1966. If you need any more detailed information let me know.

On July 20, 1966 the District Ranger at the Manzanita Lake station reported finding a dead chipmunk (Eutamias amoenus) near the Lassen Park Company employees dormitory.

A preliminary check of the area on July 22, revealed no evidence of epizootic activity in the Manzanita Lake area. Reports of other dead rodents seen in the vicinity were investigated but no carcasses were found. Populations of golden mantled ground squirrels (C. lateralis) and chipmunks (Eutamias spp.) were visually checked in this portion of the Park and were considered high.

On July 23, another chipmunk (Eutamias speciosus) was found dead at the Summit Lake Campground about 14 miles from Manzanita Lake on Highway 89. Plans were immediately formed to proceed with an intensive study of the Manzanita Lake and Summit Lake regions and to institute ectoparasite control measures as quickly as possible. Even though the results of laboratory tests on the first two dead chipmunks were not yet available we felt that the extremely crowded conditions of the two camping areas and the high populations of rodents warranted emergency measures.

Personnel from the U.S.P.H.S. were immediately assigned to assist the Bureau of Vector Control in conducting the survey and the National Park Service assigned a biologist from the regional office in San Francisco to help coordinate the control program.

On August 4, laboratory confirmation was obtained that the chipmunk from Summit Lake Campground was positive for plague.

Cal. Dept. of Public
Health
(Plague)

Shasta Co.
Email Memo

page 2
Rollo E. Talbert

December 13, 1966

Widespread and thorough trapping over a large portion of the Park and laboratory testing of a large number of ectoparasite and tissue samples failed to reveal any indication of an active epizootic of plague. Information recently received on the results of HAI tests on blood serum samples taken during the survey indicate that a chickaree (Tamiasciurus douglasi) and a golden mantled ground squirrel (C. lateralis) in the Manzanita Lake area were positive for plague.

The results of our survey convinced us that we could most efficiently prevent the development of an epizootic in the heavy rodent populations through the use of DDT - bait boxes. Through the cooperative efforts of the Shasta County Agricultural Commissioner, Shasta County Health Department, Lassen National Park, and the BVC, these were constructed and the necessary DDT and rolled barley obtained to operate them. From August 8 through September 8 one-hundred and nine stations were set up and serviced on a twice weekly basis. These were located in seven locations selected on a basis of heavy recreational usage and density of rodent populations. Stations were maintained at: Summit Lake Ranger Station, Summit Lake Corrals, North Summit Lake Camp, South Summit Lake Camp, Lupine Picnic Area, Kings Creek Picnic Area, and Manzanita Lake.

Total DDT used in these stations amounted to approximately 100 pounds of 10% dust.

Ernest E. Lusk
Senior Vector Control Specialist

REL:as
cc: BVC - Berkeley