

Wildlife

Heads of *Balsamorhiza sagittata* and *Wyethia mollis* are a ~~main~~ ^{valuable} ~~part~~ ^{part} in the rodent diet on the range.

During the past few weeks rodent grazing has suddenly become ~~very~~ ^{more} much in evidence ~~on all parts of the area on~~ ^{the last half of June.}

~~rocks, logs, and stumps~~ ^{now all the area} ~~Heads, stems and leaves~~ ^{could be found} ~~of Wyethia~~ ^{portions of the plants}

~~mollis and Balsamorhiza sagittata can be found.~~ Practically

all bunches of *Balsamorhiza* have at least 35% of the heads missing. It is believed that the Golden-mantled Ground

Squirrel is responsible for most of this clipping as it has been seen ~~in several~~ ^{times} instances chewing on the ~~seeds~~.

Examination of the remaining heads on clipped plants and heads left on stumps and rocks indicate that the squirrel picks those with the seeds in dough. More clipping has been done on ~~Wyethia-mollis~~ *Balsamorhiza sagittata* than on *Wyethia*

because the former is developed more. Few of the leaves of *Balsamorhiza* are clipped as the slender stalks can be bent down by the rodents ~~where~~ ^{and} the heads ~~can be~~ reached.

The heavier stemmed, leafy *Wyethia* is treated in a different manner. The stalk is too thick for the rodent to bend so it is clipped off at the base and leaf and all dragged to

a sunny, ~~spot~~ prominent ~~spot~~ point. In some cases all leaves and flowers of Wyethia are cut off close to the ground ~~in a group of fascicles~~ so evenly that it appears to be the grazing of some large animal until the individual stems are examined and then the slanting cuts of the rodent can easily be seen.