

**INSECT ABUNDANCE IN RELATION TO PEROMYSCUS MANICULATUS
ABUNDANCE AND POPULATION GROWTH RATE IN WESTERN AND
CENTRAL MONTANA^{TWS}**

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We have monitored deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) populations on 18 trapping grids at 6 study sites in western and central Montana for the last 8 years. For the last 3 years we used pitfall traps to monitor insect abundance on 6 grids (one at each study site) to investigate the relationship between deer mouse abundance/population growth rate and insect abundance. We present some preliminary results from our study and discuss implications related to management and monitoring of Hantavirus and other zoonotic diseases.

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