

6R-4-1.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SMALL FURBEARING MAMMALS IN THE YUKON

Species of shrew inhabiting the Yukon Northern Plateau and Yukon Central Plateau Ecoregions are the Black-Backed shrew, Common shrew, Pygmy shrew, Dusky shrew and the Water shrew. Humidity plays a huge role in the shrews' habitat, with the abundance of shrews choosing homes in moist grassy or mossy areas closest to water or moist forests.

Vole species inhabiting these two regions are the Northern Red Backed vole, Long Tailed vole, Tundra vole, Meadow vole, Chestnut Cheeked vole and the Heather vole. The Northern Red Backed vole and the Tundra vole can be found in marshy areas, forests and alpine tundra. The Long Tailed vole can be found most commonly in rocky/mountainous regions and the Meadow vole in meadow and grassland regions. The Chestnut Cheeked vole resides only in the northern half of the territory while the Heather vole resides only in the southern half of the Yukon. Ecoregions 175 and 176 are situated around the centre of the territory so there is a possibility of finding this species in either area.

The Northern Bog and the Brown Lemming are species of lemmings found in the northern and central plateaus of the Yukon. The Northern Bog lemming and the Brown lemming prefer areas of high humidity and moistness. The Northern Bog lemming inhabits forested areas with bogs and marshes while the Brown lemming can be found in regions of wet tundra.

A migratory species, the Brown bat can be found throughout North America including the Yukon. The Brown bat inhabits areas from southern Yukon to Dawson City from early June to late August when most of these bats have left the territory. Brown bat colonies are most commonly found in hollow logs, culverts, and abandoned buildings located close to water where they have access to insects.

Collared Pikas are small mammals within the same order as rabbits and hares. The only Pika species to inhabit the Yukon is the Collared Pika. These rodents resemble small rabbits and can be sited in mountainous terrain. The Collared Pika has also been found in areas around lake environments.

Although quite limited in the southern Yukon, muskrats can be seen in abundance in the north. This species inhabits streams, rivers, potholes, shallow lakes, and shallow wetlands with sufficient supply of aquatic plants. Muskrats can also be spotted in slow moving marshy stretches and any shallow productive waters of beaver country where they share beaver houses and ponds.

Three species of mice that can be found in the project area are the Meadow Jumping mouse, the Western Jumping mouse and the Deer mouse. Meadow Jumping mice can be seen widespread throughout south-central Yukon while Western Jumping mice are rare and found only in the extreme southern Yukon. The jumping mice species are seldom abundant anywhere but inhabit moist, shrubby or wooded locations near streams or lakes as they are skilled swimmers and divers. Deer mice occur in southern and central parts of the territory and unlike the jumping mice, inhabit dry habitats such as gravelly beach ridges and aspen forests.

Most closely linked to the mouse family is the Bushy-tailed woodrat. The Bushy-tailed woodrat inhabits rocky areas and coniferous forests where they have access to green vegetation as nourishment.

Hoary marmots populate mountainous regions with rocky talus slopes and lush green vegetation. The more common Hoary marmots prefer south facing mountainsides with outcrops, crevices and boulder slopes mixed with tundra meadows.

Closely compared to the marmot is the Woodchuck, whose habitat extends through southern Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The Woodchuck relies on green vegetation such as grasses, clover, alfalfa and plantain for a stable diet. They are able to obtain such nourishment from their habitats which include fields, pastures, clearings, open forests and rocky slopes. Marmots tend to dig their burrows and make homes close to grassy areas and other short-growing vegetation.

The only chipmunk species to inhabit the Yukon is the Least Chipmunk, which inhabits the southern half of the Yukon. They occur in dry habitats preferring spruce, pine, poplar, willow, soapberry scrub and dry plain regions. Compared to thick forests, the Least Chipmunks prefers to live in shrublands and open forests.