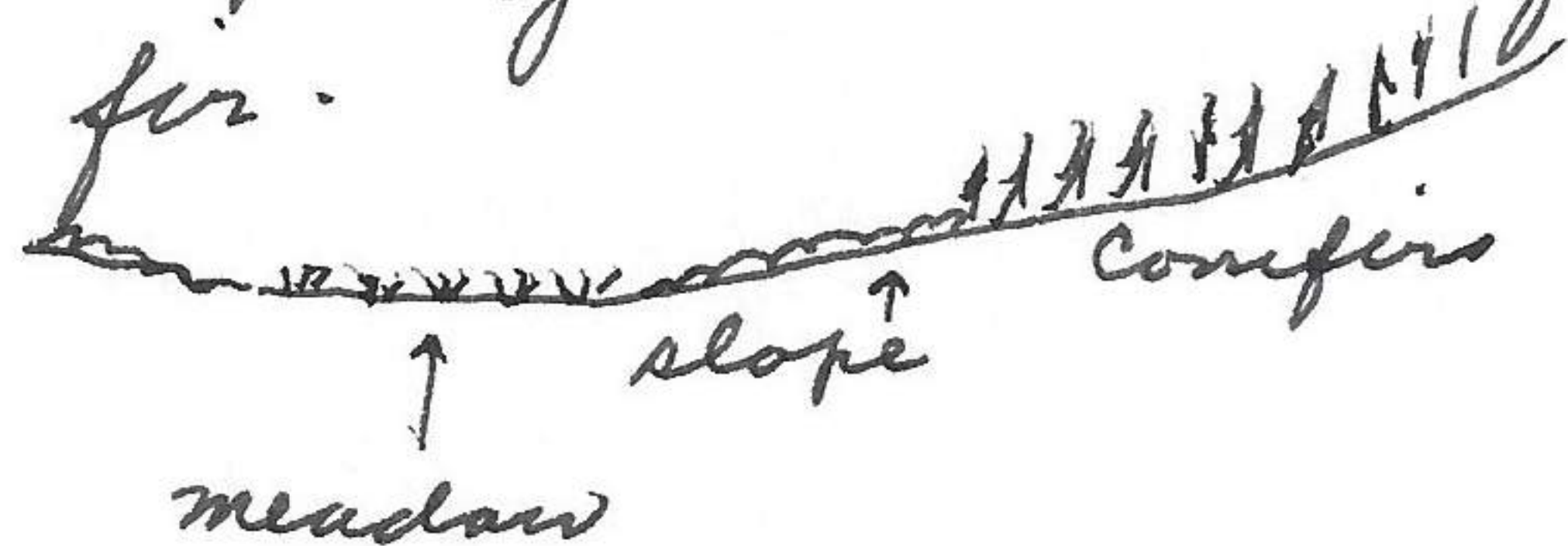


area shows considerable human influence with homes and cultivated yards. Traps 31-47 in yards surrounded by highway or cabins but grasses not used for cultivation or grazing. Besides grasses there were gooseberry, cactus, mahogany and other shrubs. Green grasses supported runways which ran among rocks (1 foot or so in diameter) and low growing shrubs. Poison ivy dominant in localized areas. Ponderosa pine and mahogany on hillside. The conditions here are similar to the preceding research area at Cedar Cove except that canyon is narrower and vegetation more like the kind associated with protected and shadowed parts of the canyon.

Research area C-7-28-48 at 5 1/10 mi. up canyon from Forks at Drake or 16 mi. W Loveland, 6840 ft., Larimer Co., Colorado. This area is recorded in photo 9-7-28-48 showing restricted grass and sedge meadow between the river and the slope of the hill. This meadow no doubt is periodically inundated in high water. Ponderosa pine and mahogany in background on slopes of mountain. There is a considerable reduction in the amount of mahogany on the hillside and a corresponding sparsity of grasses. It differs (trapping area in meadow) from the last two research areas in that it includes a flat meadow of the more permanent montaine type with damp to saturated soils - a more permanent community for *Microtus montanus*. Some spruce and fir in riparian community. Traps 48-94 here in meadow shown in photograph.

The 4th research area was at 2 mi. E of Estes Park or 19 1/2 mi. W and 2 1/2 mi. S Loveland, 7280 ft., Larimer Co., Colorado. This area is at lower end of Estes Park Valley and is of montane meadows of grasses and dwarf willow plus a typical ^{natural} flower garden complex of shrubs, herbs, etc. Geranium, mallard, gooseberry and matted grasses are typical. This area is an ^{open} meadow with considerable slope (gradual) to coniferous forest edge of ponderosa pine, spruce & fir.



The Big Thompson Project is changing this entire valley and representative sections of the valley should be preserved. 20 years ago I visited this

area and at that time there was a natural valley with undisturbed meadows and creek. Now the entire valley is populated and the project is to utilize most of the valley meadows. Progress is necessary but why not preserve some segment in its natural state? Returned to base camp at 3 1/2 mi. W Loveland.