

Greatest activity (Ochotona) in morning or late afternoon. Only two haystacks in process of construction and these about 1 gallon in mass. In other areas used by pika the nests or haystacks were not being constructed although the animals were in general area of last years haystacks. In the instance of the pika building haystacks, the animals were very active in food gathering and travelled from the forage area to their haystacks. This is the best time of the year to capture Ochotona because they consistently travel regular trails, especially near the haystacks. The young, and especially in evening, are fearless and will approach one within 3 feet to collect grasses. In travelling to haystacks, they invariably pause at certain points and make a survey of area before running to haystack and after depositing green vegetation on nest, run to an observation point (generally the top of a rock) where they again stop and remain for several minutes before returning to the foraging areas. This behavior pattern varies but is consistent enough to produce a noticeable activity pattern. One pika travelled 200 feet to gather plants, however, other foraging areas were within 20 feet of the haystack. Set several traps on one haystack (around edge) and from these traps collected 3 pikas, each one contributing to the haystack. Each animal had its own foraging area. When a trap went off and scared a pika, the animal would run up the rock slide for 250 feet or so but in a few minutes would return to haystack and continue to gather material. In travelling the rockslides the pika use regular courses and visit other haystack areas. If pika are not building haystacks, attempt to capture by placing trap in general area of activity is futile. It is extremely difficult to attract them by either food or attraction getting mechanisms. The best area for trapping and for haystack building are near base of rockslide where boulders are not too large or extensive. One area adjacent rock slide was used by pika for grazing and the grasses were grazed as like a lawn for a distance of 15 feet beyond the edge of the slide. Noted pika feeding in these areas (grazing for several minutes) in the evenings. Pika react to marmot calls and other pika calls. In gathering food, they will forcefully gnaw and pull at base of grasses until a mouthful is acquired,