

For Release by the Director, Emergency Conservation Work.  
From Biological Survey  
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### CCC WORKERS CONTROL RODENTS

For the conservation of forage and trees and the prevention of soil erosion, C.C.C. workers up to July 31 had treated 7,725,444 acres of lands to control ground squirrels, prairie dogs, pocket gophers, kangaroo rats, porcupines, and rabbits, reports Robert Fechner, Director of Emergency Conservation Work.

The C.C.C. rodent control has been conducted on national forests and on Indian reservations, <sup>through planting and poisoning operations supervised by</sup> ~~under the supervision of~~ the Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Forest Service, of that Department, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior.

Ground-burrowing rodents, says the Biological Survey, destroy thousands of tons of forage grasses annually and also kill grass roots in their search for succulent foods during dry seasons. The damage in many cases leads to disastrous soil erosion. Porcupines and rabbits cause serious injury to forest production, the girdling of trees and the eating <sup>the terminal</sup> of buds on small seedlings sometimes resulting in the destruction of 75 percent of the young forest growth. Control of the rodents, the Biological Survey points out, is thus of great importance to conservation on infested areas.

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