Factors Affecting the Ecology of the Teton National Forest

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The fourth of five years on this study has been completed. This study is to determine range condition classes on grazing allotments of lands grazed by domestic livestock in the Jackson Hole area of Wyoming. This year particular attention was paid to the genus Agropyron (see project of Scott Fisher) and the distribution of shrubs (see project of Jerry Waitman). Also a special study was undertaken with the Teton and Yellowstone National Parks of exclosure areas. One of these at Berry Creek is being studied by Neal Guse.

A rather full inventory of the county has been accomplished. The analysis of this data is being correlated with the history of grazing of both domestic livestock and the Jackson Hole Elk Herd, in so far as they are known since 1900. In addition, a correlation is being made with the geologic history. Present evidence of vegetational youthfulness (resulting from geologic youthfulness) is found in the sensitive reflection of soil, topography, geology, and climate in the vegetation patterns; the low percent of ground cover; the large number of dominants covering relatively small areas; and the rapidity of primary successional patterns.

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