

Effects of Invading Lodgepole Pine on Understory Vegetation

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Project Number 154

The objectives of this study are to determine soil moisture and pH, herbage production and cover as influenced by the invasion of lodgepole pine.

Mature forest, grassland-forest ecotone and grassland open area were selected for the study. Data were collected at different sites at the park. Soil moisture and pH, herbage production and cover, trees' age and height, forest density and canopy cover were studied as related to forest invasion on neighboring communities.

Soil moisture was found to be greater at mature forest and lower for the ecotone site; soil pH values decreased from open area to mature forest. Herbage production was greater at the open area; mature forest and ecotone sites have a very close value on production. Cover of understory vegetation data shows that ecotone area has a lower value.

Supported by Wyoming Natural Resources Board.