

The Ecology of Aspen
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Study plots involving exclosures on Berry Creek, Gros Ventre River, Uhl Hill, the National Elk Refuge, Grey's River and Black Tail Butte, as well as a series of stands on Pacific Creek, have been used to study the ecology of aspen. For the sixth year the individual life histories of mature trees and hundreds of saplings have been recorded.

As a result of these studies the following conclusions have been strengthened:

- (1) aspen is often a climax community in the Jackson Hole area
- (2) aspen needs only protection from browsing to regenerate
- (3) the history of fire in Jackson Hole is not a principal cause of the deterioration of aspen stands in Jackson Hole
- (4) the primary cause of aspen deterioration is excessive utilization by elk.

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