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A Vegetative Study of Point Island

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A Vegetative Study of Point Island
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Stevens Point, Wisconsin
Student Conservation Project

This project was concerned with an analysis of the ecology of Point Island. This is an island of trees standing isolated from other trees in a moist willow flat area found along Second Creek in the area adjacent to Jackson Lake. This area was selected because of the ecological changes occurring in it which consists of a gradual disappearance of trees associated with an increase in the willows of the area. The vegetative study included a determination of the plant species present, a collection and preservation of representative species, a study of the various cover types within the area, an analysis of growth rates of the trees as compared with growth rates of the same species in other forest areas, a quantitative analysis of trees present, and an attempt to determine the causes of the ecological changes taking place.

A large amount of quantitative data was obtained including a vegetative map of the area together with a species identification of the vegetative cover. Also included was a study of the animal species present. Age-growth studies were made by the use of tree borings.

The preliminary conclusion from this study was that because of the increased amount of moisture in the area the number of aspen was decreasing and the growth rate of aspen was very much slower than in normal aspen forest areas. One of the major contributing factors to this condition was due to extensive beaver activity. This study was preliminary in nature only and will make a contribution to a larger study underway on the willow flats areas.

Supported by Olympic Natural History Association and National Park Service.

Ecological Investigations at Holly Lake, Teton Mountains
John Merkle
Flint Junior College
Project Number 127

The summer of 1963 was spent gathering ecological data at Holly Lake, Teton Mountains, Wyoming. The project is sponsored by the National Park Service and is to obtain data to show any effects of visitor use on the subalpine and alpine areas. The data and observations result in recommendations for the best possible management of the area to maintain the scenic beauty. Holly Lake is in a cirque and is surrounded by slopes with various exposures--east, north, and south. Some of the slopes are quite steep and some are gentle. The vegetative cover is meadow and trees. Quadrat data were taken to determine the most important species in the vegetative cover of all types present. Pictures were taken to illustrate the various habitats and vegetative types.

Supported by National Park Service.