1968

Range Survey in Teton County

Alan A. Beetle

University of Wyoming

Follow this and additional works at: http://repository.uwyo.edu/jhrs_reports

Recommended Citation

This Research Project Report is brought to you for free and open access by Wyoming Scholars Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Jackson Hole Research Station Annual Report by an authorized editor of Wyoming Scholars Repository. For more information, please contact scholcom@uwyo.edu.
Range Survey in Teton County
Alan A. Beetle
University of Wyoming
Project Number 130

In Teton County there is an apparent stability in a large number of different plant communities which at present are controlled both climatically and edaphically. Real stability seems to be exhibited best by bluebunch wheatgrass shrub savannah occupying the lower foothills, by the mature lodgepole pine forests, and by the limber pine savannah.

Vegetation is still developing in Teton County. Major postglacial tendency along the stream bottoms is to blue spruce climax, on the plains to lodgepole pine climax, and on north slopes and in wet areas to Engelmann spruce.

Disturbances are primarily two in number (1) control of fire, and (2) supplemental feeding of elk. While fire historically would not be considered a disturbance since it was a natural part of the environment, under modern management the "control of fire" must be called a disturbance. If specific numbers of elk, balanced with habitat, were maintained supplemental feeding could be considered a readjustment to help nature. However, the unlimited feed program of 50 years or more duration is a major disturbance.

Assisted by Mat Terry and Alvin Carr.
Supported by Wyoming Natural Resources Board.