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Life Habits, Population Dynamics, and Ecology of Mule Deer in Grand Teton Park

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This study is being conducted within Grand Teton National Park and
on adjacent land used by mule deer which use the Park seasonally. The
initial field work was conducted from June through August 1970 and will
be continued through two additional summers, two winters, and a fall
and spring.

The following procedures were used:

(1) Vegetation analyzed quantitatively.
(2) Food habits determined by examining feeding sites.
(3) Distribution, vegetation type use, movements, population
structure, natality, and mortality determined by field
observations from fixed routes and from vantage points.
(4) Population regulating mechanisms and relationships to
the environment and to other faunal species determined
by field observations and vegetation analysis.

The vegetation survey of the Park for mapping and typing the vege-
tation was completed. At least 15 vegetation types will be differentiated.

A total of 119 mule deer was observed including 39 males, 50 females,
8 fawns, and 22 unidentified. Most of the unidentified were probably
females. These figures indicate a very low fawn production.

Use of vegetation types in percent was as follows: lodgepole pine
24.1, sagebrush 13.4, grassland 12.1, lodgepole pine and aspen parks 12.1,
aspen 10.1, spruce-fir 8.7, willow 8.1, spruce-fir park 6.0, sedge 2.0,
serviceberry-buckbrush 2.0, and spruce-cottonwood 1.3. An edge situation
was involved in 72.5 percent of the observations.

Observation-by-elevation results were 93 between 6,000 and 7,000 ft.,
20 between 7,100 and 8,000 ft., and 6 between 8,100 and 9,000 ft. The
range was 6,400 to 8,900 ft.

A total of 1062 instances of use was recorded on 7 feeding sites.
Use on forbs was 85 percent, on browse 14 percent, and on grass 1 percent.
Important species were Polygonum douglasii, Gilia aggregata, Geranium
viscosissimum, and Lupinus sericeus.

Most of the above data are biased due to differential accessibilities
and will be adjusted later.

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