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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MONTANA VEGETATION DESCRIPTION¹

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ABSTRACT.—Listed in alphabetical order by author are 549 references to literature that describes the native vegetation of Montana. This updates the 1965 list of Habeck and Hartley. A keyword subject index is included.

This bibliography includes published and unpublished references to studies of Montana's native vegetation 1870–1987. Vegetation is broadly defined as the sum of the plant communities that are found in a given area. This work updates and expands Habeck and Hartley's (1965) bibliography of the vegetation of Montana. However, papers cited in Habeck and Hartley (1965), but irrelevant to our objective, were not included here.

Systematically included are references to the natural groupings of plants, the structural and synthetic characters of the groupings, and the techniques leading to recognizing the groupings. Also included are references dealing with the relationships of the vegetation to soils and climate, and with the successional relationships among plant communities. References dealing with the flora of the region were usually omitted on the grounds that, although the flora provides the historical background from which plant communities are differentiated on the basis of floristic composition, knowledge provided by the flora alone does not tell us much about the assemblages of species and their relationships to the habitats and to each other.

The subjects covered exhaustively are vegetation zones, description, classification, physiognomy, structure, and function, as well as grazing, fire history, succession, soil-plant relationships, and habitat studies. Selected references to autecology, population biology, competition, phenology, management, and species range are included. Coverage of these tangential topics is not comprehensive. Most studies included herein were conducted in the field. The exceptions are included only when they explain Montana's native vegetation patterns. References are included if at least part of the study area is in Montana. Many references to work relevant to Montana but done in adjoining states or Canada are excluded. Readers are therefore referred to bibliographies from adjoining areas for these references.

References are listed alphabetically by author. Following the reference list is an index of keywords. When applicable, they include a broad definition of the vegetation type and geographical coverage. Broad vegetation types defined include, but are not limited to, alpine meadow, conifer forest, shrubland, grassland, wetland, and riparian vegetation.

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These keywords describe only major kinds of vegetation defined both by physiognomy and environment. Geographical coverage follows Arno's (1978) Montana forest regions. This use of broadly defined keywords pertaining to general vegetation type and geographical coverage does not substitute either for a formal classification of communities or precise location of the study sites. They are provided solely for easy information retrieval.

The choice of the other keywords reflects our interest in vegetation patterns and not necessarily the authors' emphasis. These keywords were subject to two constraints: (1) the consistent use of the same term for the same concept/object of study throughout the bibliography, and (2) respect for the author's original wording. Species names and some other words appear as keywords when they are the central subject of the paper. However, additional information on the topic may be found under a more general keyword (e.g., *Abies lasiocarpa* under conifer forest; competition under community structure; etc.)

Readers seeking complete information on a particular topic should check for reference numbers in the keyword index.

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