A BOTANICAL INVENTORY OF THE ROCKY FLATS AEC SITE

MASTER

Progress Report

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A BOTANICAL INVENTORY OF THE ROCKY FLATS AEC SITE:

PROGRESS REPORT (COO-2371-4)

ABSTRACT

During the first three years of this contract the following tasks have been completed for the Rocky Flats site: 1) compilation of a floristic list, 2) printing of 1:12,000 colored vegetation map, 3) drafting of five 1:500 black and white vegetation maps of special study areas, and 4) construction of two phytosociologic ordination models. A fifth task which is to describe twenty selected plant species in morphologic and cytogenetic terms is underway. An M. A. thesis documenting this work is in the final stages of completion and a progress report which documents the mapping methods has been completed. A further year of effort will complete this study.

April 28, 1976

Patrick J. Webber
Principal Investigator

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ERDA Contract No. E(11-1)-2371
A Botanical Inventory of the Rocky Flats AEC Site

PROGRESS REPORT (1975-1976)

The overall aim of this research is to establish base-lines against which subsequent changes in the plant component of the Rocky Flats' ecosystem can be compared. Work on this contract has been underway for three years. Except for the final manuscript writing, four major tasks have been completed. These tasks are: 1) Inventory of the flora of Rocky Flats site, 2) Mapping the vegetation of the site and its environs at a scale of 1:12,000, 3) Mapping the vegetation of five experimental or special interest areas at a scale of 1:500, and 4) The construction of two phytosociologic ordination models for the site. A fifth and final task concerns the establishment of morphological and cytogenetical norms for twenty plant species from the study area. Substantial progress in the form of plant and seed collecting has been made on this task but it is anticipated that one further year of research will be required for its completion as well as the ultimate completion of the other tasks.

This year the Principal Investigatorship changed hands from Dr. William A. Weber of the University Museum to Dr. Patrick John Webber of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research. The new Principal Investigator has been heavily involved in all previous aspects of the contract and due to Dr. William Weber's anticipated leave of absence from the University the change of responsibility was appropriate. Approval for this change was sought from ERDA by Dr. William Weber and obtained.

The major effort this year has been to print the color map, and construct the five 1:500 maps. Several additions have been made to the floristic lists, especially of introduced and alien plant species. The ordination models have been more finely tuned with the incorporation of soil and other substrate data. The 1:12,000 map and the vegetation models comprise the major part of a thesis for a Master of Arts degree at the University of Colorado which is being written by Ms. Susan Vetter Clark. The thesis is close to completion and will represent a fine base-line document. A technical progress report (COO.2371.5) which presents 32 photographs of the vegetation units and eleven maps has been completed. This report outlines the mapping methods used in this contract and it is intended for the current and immediate users of the maps.

Drs. William A. Weber and Patrick J. Webber have contributed 5% of their time to this project and will continue until the closing date of July 31, 1976. In addition Dr. Webber will spend two entire weeks during July on the project.

April 28, 1976

Patrick J. Webber
Principal Investigator