**Blog Post 2: Sources of Scientific Information**

**Your second post will concern sources of scientific information. Find one source of ecological information. It can be online, from the library, or from a book on your shelf. Based on what you have learned in the “How to evaluate sources of scientific information tutorial”, create a post in which you a) say what the source is (and/or link to it), b) classify it into one of the four types of information discussed in the tutorial, and c) provide documentation to support your classification.**

David N. Cole. (1995). Experimental Trampling of Vegetation. I. Relationships between Trampling Intensity and Vegetation Response*. Journal of Applied Ecology, 32(1), 203-214.* [https://doi.org/10 .2307/2404429](https://doi.org/10%20.2307/2404429)

In this blog post I will be using the template provided by in Lepczyk and Donnelly (2011) Box 1. on how to properly assess ecological sources of information.

This source is an example of peer-viewed academic research material. The author has authority to be about ecological concepts. Cole has a Ph. D in Geography from the University of Oregon with an extensive career in research associated with the environmental impacts of the recreational activities. He uses his previous research, and others to contextualize the implications of recreational outdoor activities on variously tolerable vegetation. Cole intentional highlights that there are only two previous experimental research papers with goals of studying the trampling of vegetation. The purpose of this research paper was to describe and assess the vegetation in 18 different sites in five different mountainous location throughout the US response to various levels of trampling. Coles uses various in-text citations to support his methodology, and in tandem with is findings to further support his results. Cole’s method at each site location Coles makes 4 different plots of five rows with the dimensions of 0.5m by 1.5m. Each row is assigned a level of trampling by how many passes of a 70 kg trampler will be conducted. The number of passes ranges from the control row with zero passes to 25, 75, 200, and finally 500 passes. In Tabel 1. Cole identifies the 18 various vegetation types based on scheme developed by other scientists. The vegetation dimensions were taken before treatment was administered, immediately preceding, two weeks, and one year. He adjusted the treatment for two variations due to there resistances and were excluded in analysis. Cole includes all the data collected from each observation (immediate, two weeks, on-year). Cole also includes the model used as well as the previous research who used the model. In the results section Cole identifies which vegetation is most tolerant and least, also reinforces pervious research suggesting that the there is a linear relationship between frequency and the most resistant and tolerant vegetation however, Cole suggests that there is a frequency threshold for each vegetation, future research should be conducted on vegetation trampling to identify frequency thresholds for better land management. Finally, the abstract contains all essential elements such as introduction, goal, method, results, and discussion. Because I was able to answer the question purposed for each section by Lepczyk and Donnelly (2011) Box 1. Reference guide for assessing manuscripts, and well as being able to identify it as a peer-reviewed academic research paper I would deem this paper a good source of scientific information.

I would just like to add that I felt that using this guide it helped me to better comprehend and assess this academic paper. I will be using it as a guide for building bibliographies in the future.