

Alpine Ecology Monitoring Project

An introduction to research

Science and research are mostly funded by grants. Scientists seek out organizations and government entities to see if they will fund their projects. Two years ago, Mr. Beals approached Dr. James Barron at MSUB to see if he would be willing to collaborate on a project to explore the changes in treeline of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as a response to climate change. The Murdock Trust of Vancouver Washington agreed to grant us enough money to answer the question, "Is it possible to quantify the change in treeline and woody plant densities in alpine regions of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem".

What does this all mean? Why does it matter?

Funding agencies require that you prove you are spending their money effectively. I was asked to make a poster to present in Vancouver, Washington and again in San Diego California to show that we are making progress on the research. [Click the link](#) to open the poster and answer the following questions.

1. What is title of the research project?
2. What is the purpose of the project?
3. Explain why we (the researchers) think this is an important project (see "Introduction")
4. Where is the study area for this project?
5. What are the methods used to answer the research question?
6. Summarize what you learned in the "Discussion" section.
7. What have we been able to conclude thus far?
8. Do you notice any differences in the pictures? Explain.
9. If you were asked to direct the research for this next year, what next steps would you recommend and why?
10. If you could do any ecology research project in any area of the world, where would you go and what would you research? (It should relate to Ecology!)