

Ecological Succession Notes

Examples of wildlife species typically found in areas at different stages of ecological succession in areas of the U.S. with temperate climates:

Examples of Succession at Yellowstone National Park

1. Early Successional Species: Rabbit, Quail, Pheasant, Dove, Prairie Sapsucker
2. Mid-successional Species: Elk, Moose, Deer, American Crow, Blue Jay
3. Late Successional Species: Turkey, Martin, Gray Sapsucker
4. Climate Community Species: Canada Goose, Mallard, Curlew, Lesser Northern Owl

Compare Characteristics of Immature and Mature Stages of Ecological Succession

Characteristics	Immature Ecosystem (Early Successional Stage)	Mature Ecosystem (Late Successional Stage)
Community Structure		
Plant size	small	large
Species diversity	low	high
Complex structure	Minimally productive / low biomass	Maximally productive, complex, and diversified
Ecological Factors		
Community Organization (number of interacting spp.)	low	high
Resource Provision		
Moisture	low	high
Nutrient	high	low
Food: Nuts and seeds	Simple plant / herbivore	Complex, many decomposers
Efficiency of nutrient recycling	low	high
Efficiency of energy use	low	high