

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

ADDRESS REPLY TO
PROJECT ENGINEER

SAN LUIS VALLEY PROJECT
MONTE VISTA, COLORADO

June 25, 1947

Laura Gilpin, Photographer
P. O. Box 1173
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Miss Gilpin:

This is in reply to your letter of May 29, 1947, addressed to the Soil Conservation Service. The answers to your questions follow:

1. The elevation of timber line at the source of the Rio Grande depends upon moisture and wind conditions existing and varies between 11,000 and 12,000 feet above sea level.
2. There is no particular aspen belt on the Rio Grande. The aspen grow from the foothills to timber line, providing there is sufficient moisture to sustain them.
3. Evergreen species growing in the area are ponderosa pine, limber pine, bristlecone pine, pinon pine, englemann spruce, blue spruce, alpine fir, corkbark fir, white fir, Douglas fir, Rocky Mountain red cedar, and one-seed juniper.
4. The elevation of the hay meadow valley at Wright's Ranch varies from 8900 feet above sea level at the lower end to 9000 feet above sea level at the upper end of the valley.
5. The rocks at Creede are rhyolites and latites and those at Wagon Wheel Gap are andesites and latites. There are other kinds of rock found at Creede and the Gap, but the large outcrops are as mentioned.
6. Permits for grazing allow 16,500 cattle and horses and 132,400 sheep and goats in the Rio Grande National Forest. The 1945 farm census reported 15,343 cattle and calves and 111,359 sheep and lambs on Rio Grande County farms. No figures are on hand as to the average annual shipments of cattle and sheep.
7. Stony pass is 12,594 feet above sea level.

Yours very truly,

D. M. Forester
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Project Engineer