

Ecological Processes of Grassland Ecosystems

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An understanding of the basic ecological processes is necessary to explain and predict grassland dynamics in response to changes in land use and climate. We will provide an overview of the factors and processes that control current and potential future patterns of grassland production and diversity, wildlife habitat, soil erosion, and water availability. These processes include water (infiltration, runoff and storage), nutrient cycling, and solar energy capture and flow through the system. We will describe each of these processes, and then discuss how they vary and interact in the region. The presentation will conclude with some sources of additional information.