

This data package was produced by researchers working on the Shortgrass Steppe Long Term Ecological Research Project. This project was supported by National Science Foundation from 1982-2014. This data package includes one or more tab-delimited data tables, tab-delimited files (named _var) that denote header definitions and data types for each column, and detailed metadata within an Ecological Metadata Language document (i.e. XML). Example image files of plots, digital datasheets, or schematics of the experimental design may also be included when applicable.

Background information on the SGS-LTER project is contained in related series of objects within the Digital Collections of Colorado and the Colorado State University archives. Together data packages and other background information, including items such as images, proposals, and reports contribute to a comprehensive SGS-LTER collection.

The data tables and associated EML documents represent components of a PASTA (Provenance Aware Synthesis and Tracking Architecture) congruent LTER data package, which may be discovered and accessed through secondary repositories serving specific ecosystem science domains (e.g. LTER Network Information System, DataONE, or The Knowledge Network for BioComplexity).

The following information was obtained from the SGS-LTER Field Crew Manual:

ARS #98 Scat Count

Principal Investigator: Paul Stapp

Study Objectives: to track temporal changes in the relative abundance of these important predators on the study area.

What to know before you start sampling:

- ✓ **You can identify scats from different species and ages**
- ✓ **You are familiar with different topography and vegetation types across the CPER**
- ✓ **You are familiar with the codes recorded for each attribute on the data sheet**

Study Area Locations and Design: see transect map across CPER for lagomorph and scat counts. Please see directions for CPER Study Sites in Appendix.

Sampling Protocol:

A minimum of two observers remove all scats from the 20-mile lagomorph count route; these are recorded as the PRE-CENSUS count. Start at the cattle guard at the fenceline road near the driveway to site manager's house in 21SE. The route is driven at approximately 3-4 mph (range 2-5 mph), with two observers on the hood of the truck or sitting on the front rack. Ca. 7-14 days later, the route is driven again and the number of scats of each species are recorded and tallied. Mileage along the transect, type and age of the scat(s), and topography and vegetation type are also recorded for each scat. 2 scats found of different species or age should be recorded on separate records on the data sheet. In

addition, note when scat are observed near human structures (i.e. windmills, cattle guards, etc) Scats can be collected for later analysis if desired. The census is conducted in January, April, July, and October, and if possible near to the time of the lagomorph surveys.

QAQC Instructions:

Make sure to fill in all of the information on the header of each and every datasheet, including page __ of _____. Record starting and ending mileage immediately at each location. Record any changes in the weather or weather events over the past 24 hours. Also note if any of the roads have been re-graded during the past week. Make sure record and report scat tallies on the data sheet. Clip data sheets together for each sampling date and then clip the pre-census and census sheets together.