

Information on Data Collection and Organization from the SGS-LTER

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 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, and items such as images, proposals, and reports contribute to a comprehensive SGS-LTER collection.

The data tables and associated EML documents represent components of the LTER data package, which may be discovered and accessed through secondary repositories serving specific ecosystem science domains (e.g. PASTA (LTER Network Repository), DataONE, or The Knowledge Network for BioComplexity).

The following information is copied from the SGS-LTER field protocols to provide specific details on how these data were collected.

These meteorological data were collected manually from Micro Met Station 11 (also referred to as Pawnee) by the LTER site manager beginning in 1969, during the International Biological Program. The IBP Pawnee site is on the Central Plains Experimental Range (CPER) in Nunn, Colorado. In 1982, the LTER established the SGS headquarters in the old IBP buildings. LTER continued the long-term record of meteorological measurements from the old IBP equipment in section 27 of the CPER. In 1986, the LTER installed the automated Meteorological Station 12.

Station 11 data were processed for level 1 and Station 12 for level 2 meteorological data, and QAQC was performed. These records can now be found in the all-site climate database (ClimDB) of the Long Term Ecological Research Network. All of the data in ClimDB are submitted in a standardized format as seen in the climdb data package. The site manager and the automated equipment continued to collect data from this station after 2010. Meteorological data after 2010 may be obtained from the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Rangeland Resources Research Unit.