KONZA PRAIRIE AND THE ORIGIN OF THE LTER NETWORK

Dick Marzolf, USGS Emeritus
Pre-LTER establishment of Konza Prairie as a research site

Marty Gurtz photo
North American extent of tall-grass prairie
FIRES ARE ESSENTIAL EVENTS IN TALL-GRASS PRAIRIE
UNBURNED TO THE LEFT OF THE FENCE-LINE
Late spring after a controlled fire on the left
KONZA PRAIRIE CONTROLLED MANAGEMENT DESIGN

* BURNED AT VARIOUS INTERVALS
* GRAZED BY BISON and OTHERS
NSF HELD PRE-LTER WORKSHOPS IN THE LATE 1970’s
KONZA ECOLOGISTS AND THE LTER ADVISORS, 1981
1980 (SUMMER) FIRST LTER GRANTS TO SIX SITES (ANDREWS, COWEETA, KONZA, NIWOT RIDGE, NORTH INLET, NORTHERN LAKES)

1980 (OCTOBER) PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS MEETING IN WASHINGTON TO ANNOUNCE COORDINATION AND TO ESTABLISH A STEERING COMMITTEE

1980 (DECEMBER) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN MANHATTAN TO DRAFT A PROPOSAL FOR COORDINATION

PURPLE PRAIRIE CONE FLOWER

BIG BLUESTEM
“This proposal should not be funded. In fact, it is all wrong. LTER sites, and their research programs, are being established to insure that there are high quality research sites available for scientists, that there are long-term, conventionally collected data sets available to users, that provision is made for answering ecological questions which depend upon information collected uniformly over periods of time exceeding normal funding cycles.”

“If the ‘network’ has a primary function testing cross-site hypotheses, then the network was established incorrectly.”

-- An anonymous reviewer of the original coordination proposal
1981 (?) SECOND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AT NIWOT RIDGE TO PLAN WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

1981 (SUMMER) THIRD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AT NORTH INLET TO PLAN A COORDINATED INVESTIGATION (WITH 5 ADDITIONAL SITES: CEDAR CREEK, ILLINOIS RIVER, JORNADA, OKEEFENOKEE, PAWNEE)

BUTTERFLY MILKWEED

MONARCH BUTTERFLY
DATA BASE MANAGEMENT

1982 (NOVEMBER) DATA MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP IN URBANA, ILLINOIS

1982 METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE MET AT COWEETA TO AGREE ON BASIC MEASUREMENTS AND TO COORDINATE DATA FORMATS

1984 (NOVEMBER) DATA MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM AT HOBCAW BARONY. RESULT WAS A BOOK EDITED BY BILL MICHENER:

RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT IN THE ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES, USC PRESS
COORDINATED STUDY OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY

1983 (JANUARY) WORKSHOP AFTER PRELIMINARY WORK BY SCIENTISTS AT ANDREWS, COWEETA, AND NORTHERN LAKES.
1983 (July) Stream ecology workshop at Konza Prairie

KINGS CREEK, APRIL 1984
1983 (SPRING) FIRST ALL-SCIENTISTS MEETING
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO