

NPP Grassland: Bridger, U.S.A., 1970-1973

Data Citation

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Description

Productivity of a mountain grassland was monitored at the Bridger study site during 1970 and 1972. Dynamics of above-ground plant biomass were monitored at roughly 2-week intervals during the growing season. Data on above-ground live biomass, standing dead matter and litter are available, for two replications of a grazed and an "ungrazed" (relatively undisturbed) treatment. Above-ground net primary production (ANPP) was estimated conservatively, by summing peak biomass of individual species, and below-ground net primary production (BNPP) estimated as the sum of positive increments in total root plus crown biomass.

Data were collected as part of a coordinated study over 1-3 years at ten grassland sites of the central and western United States, under the [U.S. Grassland Biome Project](#) of the International Biological Program (IBP).

The Bridger study site (45.78 N 110.78 W) is situated at the U.S. Forest Service Bangtail Ridge Ranger Station in the Rocky Mountains, 22 km northeast of the city of Bozeman, Montana. The ungrazed treatment area had been protected from grazing since 1930. The high mountain meadow is surrounded by forests dominated by *Abies lasiocarpa* and *Pinus contorta*.

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Image #BRD-1: Targhee and Colombia sheep at the Bridger grassland site, Montana, USA. (Photograph taken July 1973 by Larry Nell, Colorado State University).



Image #BRD-2: General view of the Bridger grassland site, Montana, USA. (Photograph taken June/July 1971).



Image #BRD-3: Litter decomposition bags at the Bridger grassland site, Montana, USA. (Photograph taken 1970-1973 by John Mitchell, Colorado State University).