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Review of *The Ecology and Management of Prairies in
the Central United States*. By Chris Helzer.

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on how to manage prairies in the Central U.S., an area corresponding to the eastern portion of the Great Plains where tall- and mixed-grass prairie occurred. With fragmentation and huge losses of this region's natural prairie habitat, there is a growing appreciation for active management of remnants and prairie restoration. This book provides an excellent introduction to this topic.

Its 11 chapters are arranged into two main sections on prairie ecology and prairie management, respectively. The 56-page section on prairie ecology is an up-to-date primer that describes plant and animal communities, disturbance, the importance of diversity and heterogeneity, and the landscape context of the region's prairies. Although much of the material is fairly basic, the last two chapters in the section on diversity/heterogeneity and landscapes set the stage for the management section that follows. As Chris Helzer notes repeatedly, a goal of prairie management and restoration is to enhance biodiversity. Prairies are not homogeneous areas at any spatial or temporal scale of resolution, and any restored or remnant prairie must be viewed in the context of the landscape in which it sits.

The 100-page section on prairie management—which includes chapters on adaptive management, design strategies, management considerations (i.e., burning and grazing approaches), wildlife considerations, invasive species, and restoration—provides a wealth of well-organized information. The author repeats the mantra that the goal of management and restoration is to enhance and maintain as high a level of biodiversity as possible. I agree. Helzer says numerous times that more details are available elsewhere or that managers should consult with local practitioners for their own particular situation. True, but it is a bit annoying to be told this so often.

The book includes extensive appendices with additional information on grazing, prescribed fire, and introduced species, as well as a list of state contacts, selected extra resources, a list of common and Latin plant names mentioned in the text, and a comprehensive index. The volume is attractively produced with numerous excellent color photographs.

Overall, I enjoyed reading Helzer's work, as will others interested in prairie management and restoration. **David J. Gibson**, *Department of Plant Biology, Center for Ecology, Southern Illinois University Carbondale*.

The Ecology and Management of Prairies in the Central United States. By Chris Helzer. Iowa City: Published for the Nature Conservancy by the University of Iowa Press, 2010. xiii + 216 pp. Map, photographs, illustrations, table, charts, appendices, bibliography, index. \$29.95 paper.

This relatively short book is an informative and easy-to-read account of the author's philosophy and advice