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GREAT PLAINS RESEARCH

A JOURNAL OF NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 2
FALL 2008

CENTER FOR GREAT PLAINS STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA–LINCOLN

Center for Great Plains Studies

Director: James Stubbendieck
Professor, Grassland Ecology
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

THE CENTER FOR GREAT PLAINS STUDIES was established in 1976 by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents to promote a greater understanding of the people, culture, history, and environment of the Great Plains through a variety of teaching, research, and outreach programs. Under the administration of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, the Center encompasses eight divisions: the Great Plains Art Museum, three academic journals (*Great Plains Quarterly, Great Plains Research*, and *Plains Song Review*), undergraduate and graduate programs, editing projects, research support, outreach programs, annual interdisciplinary symposia, and Fellows and Associate Fellows.

Great Plains Research

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Cover image: Elk, near northwestern border of the Great Plains, Alberta, Canada. See Kent A. Fricke et al., p. 189, of this issue on elk in Nebraska. Photograph by R.F. Diffendal, Jr.

GREAT PLAINS RESEARCH is a peer-reviewed, biannual, multidisciplinary science journal, which publishes original research and scholarly reviews of important advances in the natural and social sciences with relevance to the Great Plains region and with special emphases on environmental, economic, and social issues. It includes reviews of books.

Articles include:

- **original research findings**, such as have been published in *GPR* since 1991;
- **synopses** of the "state of the science" on topics relevant to the Great Plains;
- **overviews** of critical environmental, economic, and social issues for the plains;
- **reviews** of knowledge on important questions and their regional application; and
- **syntheses and cross-disciplinary analyses** relevant to the Great Plains.

Great Plains Research is indexed or abstracted in *America: History and Life, BIOSIS Previews, Biological Abstracts, Cambridge Scientifc Abstracts, C-CIARN, Environment Abstracts, Historical Abstracts, Geo Abstracts* and *GEOBASE, Journal of Planning Literature, Meteorological and Geoastrophysical Abstracts*, and *Sociological Abstracts, Inc.*

The editor encourages those submissions in particular that report general findings in the sciences relevant to this vast region. Articles should include thoughtful reviews of critical scientific findings and issues relevant to the Great Plains, whether the research was done in the Great Plains or not. The key to acceptance will be how well the findings are related to the region, and how well the science is communicated to other scientists outside the specific discipline, in the style of *Scientific American*, for example. The Board of Governors' Publication Committee will select annually the best paper in natural sciences and the best paper in social sciences. The author/s of the winning papers will be presented cash prizes with the **Charles E. Bessey Award** (natural sciences) or the **Leslie Hewes Award** (social sciences).

Scientists doing interesting work with important implications for this region are invited to synthesize their significant research results and present them to our readers. The overall goals are to develop *Great Plains Research* as a centralized outlet for science of regional importance, to communicate important scientific findings to as wide an educated audience as possible, and to help keep scientists, interested citizens, and leaders of this region up-to-date on scientific progress relevant to the Great Plains.

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