**\*** What scientific question is addressed in this manuscript?

Does snowpack and snow melt influence flowering phenology for forbs in upper midwestern tallgrass prairies? How are winter precipitation and temperature related to flowering phenology?

**\*** What is/are the key finding(s) that answer this question?

Winter precipitation was not related to flowering phenology for most of the species used in this study. Most species had a strong relationship between temperature and flowering phenology.

**\*** Why is this work important and timely?

Temperature and precipitation are predicted to increase in the Midwest due to climate change. It is crucial to understand the consequences that local climate changes can have on plants and the ecosystems they inhabit to understand potential threats to biodiversity.

**\*** Describe how your paper fits within the scope of GCB; What biological AND global change aspects does it address?

This research addresses phenological responses of flowering prairie forbs to shifts in local temperature and precipitation regimes due to global warming.

**\*** What are the three most recently published papers that are relevant to this manuscript?

(Ettinger et al. 2020)

(Reed et al. 2019)

(Wang et al. 2018)

(Sherwood et al. 2017)

(Bjorkman et al. 2015)

If you listed non-preferred reviewers, please provide a justification for each.

If your manuscript does not conform to author or formatting guidelines (e.g. exceeding word limit), please provide a justification

Conflict of Interest

Special Issue?

Data Availability Statement- examples below

<https://authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/open-access/data-sharing-citation/data-sharing-policy.html#standardtemplates>

Bjorkman, A. D., S. C. Elmendorf, A. L. Beamish, M. Vellend & G. H. R. Henry (2015) Contrasting effects of warming and increased snowfall on Arctic tundra plant phenology over the past two decades. *Global Change Biology,* 21**,** 4651-4661.

Ettinger, A. K., C. J. Chamberlain, I. Morales-Castilla, D. M. Buonaiuto, D. F. B. Flynn, T. Savas, J. A. Samaha & E. M. Wolkovich (2020) Winter temperatures predominate in spring phenological responses to warming. *Nature Climate Change,* 10**,** 1137-U119.

Reed, P. B., L. E. Pfeifer‐Meister, B. A. Roy, B. R. Johnson, G. T. Bailes, A. A. Nelson, M. C. Boulay, S. T. Hamman & S. D. Bridgham (2019) Prairie plant phenology driven more by temperature than moisture in climate manipulations across a latitudinal gradient in the Pacific Northwest, USA. *Ecology and evolution,* 9**,** 3637-3650.

Sherwood, J. A., D. M. Debinski, P. C. Caragea & M. J. Germino (2017) Effects of experimentally reduced snowpack and passive warming on montane meadow plant phenology and floral resources. *Ecosphere,* 8.

Wang, X., T. Wang, H. Guo, D. Liu, Y. Zhao, T. Zhang, Q. Liu & S. Piao (2018) Disentangling the mechanisms behind winter snow impact on vegetation activity in northern ecosystems. *Global Change Biology,* 24**,** 1651-1662.