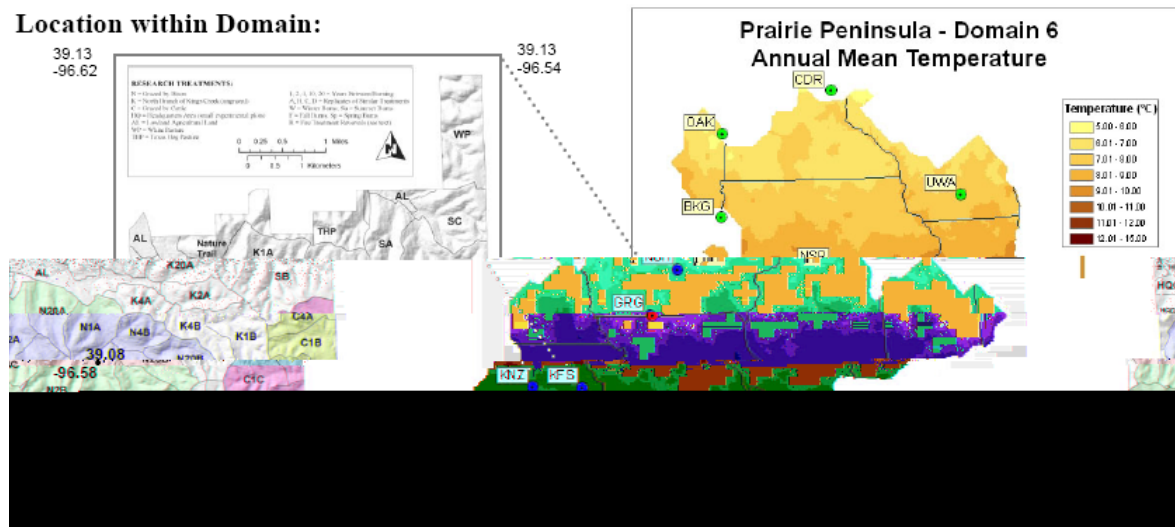


Konza Prairie Biological Station (KNZ): Prairie Peninsula Domain (Core Wildland Site)

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Location within Domain:



History: KNZ is a 3,487 hectare native tallgrass prairie site owned by The Nature Conservancy and Kansas State University and operated as a field research station by the K-State Division of Biology since 1972. KPBS is one of 6 original NSF Long-Term Ecological Research sites, and has an extensive database on ecological processes in mesic grasslands.

Key Characteristics: Continental climate; high interannual variability and periodic droughts. Topographically complex (320 to 444 m asl), with a range of soil types and depths. Primarily (>90%) native tallgrass prairie, dominated by perennial C4 grasses. Numerous sub-dominant grasses, forbs and woody species contribute to high floristic diversity. Kings Creek (USGS Benchmark Stream) originates on and traverses 10 km across KNZ. Gallery forests along major stream courses. Several agricultural fields and restored prairies near headquarters. Overall, the site has most features representative of the pre-settlement tallgrass prairie, with fire and large native herbivores (bison) incorporated into portions of the site as a shifting mosaic.

Existing Infrastructure: Site for the US Climate Reference Network (CRN), USGS stream monitoring network, Ameriflux, the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP), and the Clean Air Standards and Trends Network (CASTNET). Field equipment/instrumentation includes eddy flux towers, weirs and associated stream gauging equipment, wells for monitoring groundwater levels and chemistry, CIMEL Sun Photometer, USGS stream monitoring station, CRN weather station, wet (NADP) and dry-deposition (CASTNet) monitoring facilities. Many historical and ongoing datasets. On-site facilities for experimental climate and hydrologic manipulations. Extensive collection of remote sensing data and land-cover data (primary research site for the First ISLSCP (International Satellite Land Surface Climatology Project) Field Experiment (FIFE) Project, core MODIS validation site).

Facilities: Includes the 4,650 ft² Hulbert Center, dormitory-style housing, and two 2-bedroom cottages for visiting researchers (cap.=23), 2,400 ft² Ecology Laboratory, fire station and shop/support building, storage for research equipment, and residence for on-site staff; T1 Internet connectivity and wireless access for data collection and transmission; within 15 km of additional laboratories at KSU and housing in Manhattan, KS; year around road access; secured research area with no unescorted public access.