

BIOL 380/480: The impact of prescribed fire on grassland insect diversity

Prescribed fire is becoming a more common practice to maintain grassland ecosystem health. Previous studies have shown that the use of prescribed fire is important for maintaining native grassland species and that species diversity returns to pre-burn levels roughly five years after a burn. However, how prescribed fire impacts other aspects of grassland ecosystems is not well explored. This project will allow students to investigate the influence of prescribed fire on insect diversity through insect identification and quantification. Samples were collected throughout the summer of 2026, allowing for a comparison of species throughout the summer, in addition to between control and prescribe fire sites. This project will allow students to build skills in insect identification, large dataset generation, R analysis, and written and oral communication.

The magnitude of this project will depend on whether the student is looking to conduct BIOL 380 or BIOL 480.

If you are interested, please contact Dr. Ivy at catherine.ivy@usask.ca and include a brief description of why you are interested in the project. You can find more information about the Ivy Lab [here!](#)