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BOOK REVIEW

INNIS, G. S. (ed.): GRASSLAND SIMULATION MODEL. — Ecological Studies 26. Springer-Verlag New York—Heidelberg—Berlin 1978. 298 pp. US \$ 24.80; DM 49.60.

The book presents the description, commentaries and evaluation of a major achievement in modeling and simulation of large-extent ecosystems, the ELM 1973 grassland simulation model, which has been developed within the scope of the International Biological Program (IBP), as a result of several years' effort (started in 1971). Fourteen leading ecologists contributed to the volume dealing with general aspects and special individual parts of the model like abiotic, primary producers, mammalian consumers, grasshopper population, decomposer submodels, nitrogen flow and phosphorus cycling. An extremely interesting sensitivity analysis is included. The closing chapter brings critics and analyses of the model. The research is based not only on descriptive techniques such as direct measurement, sampling and analyses, but also on experimentally induced variables (fertilization, grazing load *etc.*).

The model is based predominantly on the research done on the Pawnee Site (Colorado) at the Natural Resources Ecology Laboratory of Colorado State University, but the measures have been taken, in view of an easy adaptability of the model for all other sites, in the US/International Biological Program Grassland Biome research.

The volume is comprehensive enough to supply the reader with all necessary description and results, thus forming a rich source of information which is relevant not only to other grassland ecosystems but to general ecological modeling as well. Each of the ten chapters brings not only the description of the pertinent submodels and the examples of results but also the discussion on their validity, limitation and applicability problems. Still the book remains concise, clear and well readable.

The extent of achievements and the critical approach of the contribution have made this book an invaluable starting point for any future studies of grassland biome.

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