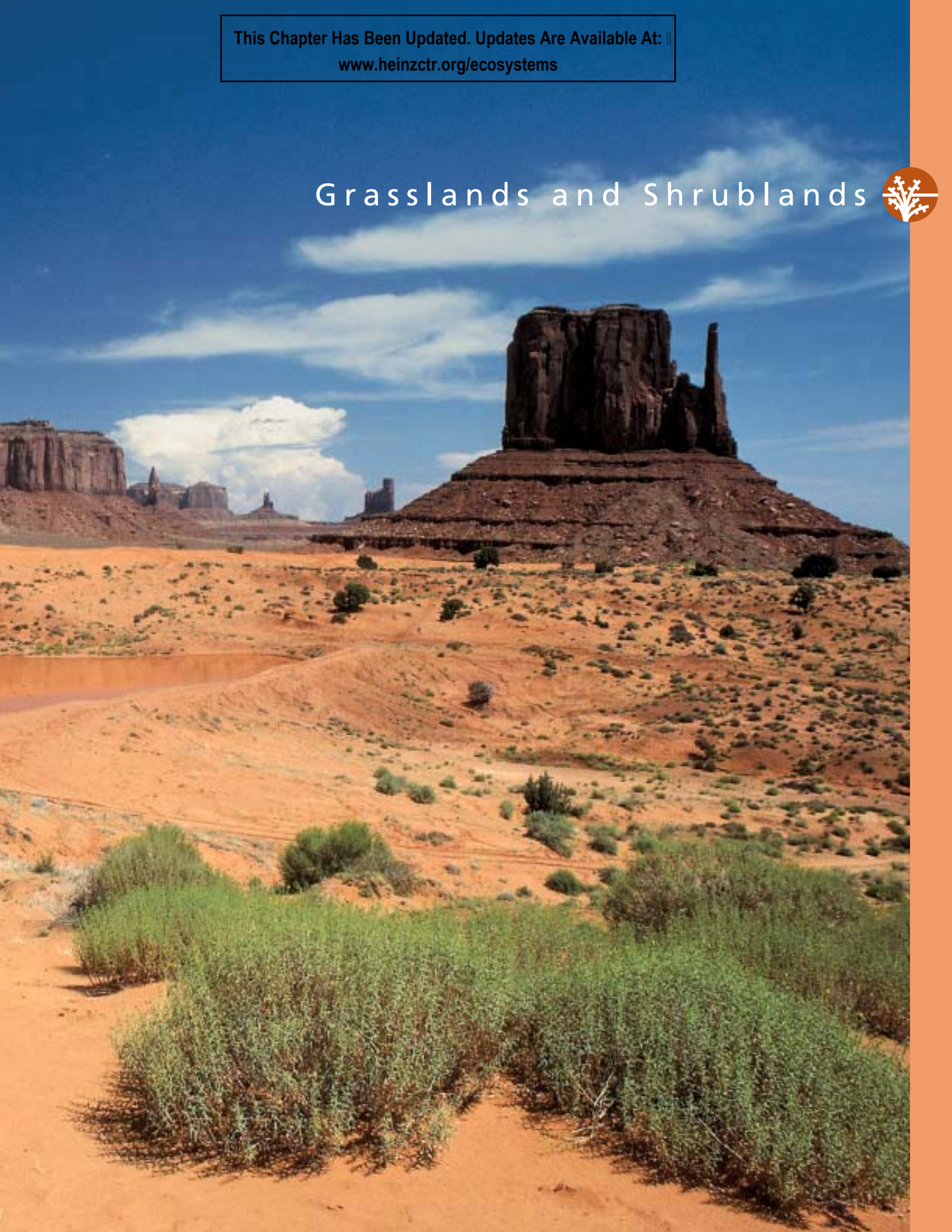


This Chapter Has Been Updated. Updates Are Available At: www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems

Grasslands and Shrublands





What Indicators are used to describe Grasslands and Shrublands? Can we report trends? Are there other useful reference points?

SYSTEM DIMENSIONS			
●	Area of Grasslands and Shrublands	How much land is covered by grasslands and shrublands?	Current data only
◐	Land Use	How are grasslands and shrublands used? How many acres are used for livestock grazing; oil, gas, and mineral development; rural residences; intensive recreation; "protected areas"; and the Conservation Reserve Program?	Trends
⊖	Area and Size of Grassland and Shrubland Patches	What fraction of grasslands and shrublands is found in patches of various sizes?	No data reported
CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS			
⊖	Nitrate in Groundwater	How much nitrate is there in groundwater in grasslands and shrublands?	No data reported
⊖	Carbon Storage	How much carbon is stored in grasslands and shrublands?	No data reported
●	Number and Duration of Dry Periods in Streams and Rivers	How many streams have zero flow for at least one day a year? For these streams, are the dry periods getting longer or shorter?	Trends
⊖	Depth to Shallow Groundwater	What is the depth to shallow groundwater in various parts of the country?	No data reported
BIOLOGICAL COMPONENTS			
◐	At-Risk Native Species	How many grassland and shrubland native species are at different levels of risk of extinction?	Current data only
⊖	Non-native Plant Cover	What percentage of grassland and shrubland plant cover is not native to the region?	No data reported
●	Population Trends in Invasive and Noninvasive Birds	Are invasive bird populations increasing more than other bird populations?	Trends
⊖	Fire Frequency Index	Are grassland and shrubland fires occurring more or less frequently than in presettlement times?	No data reported
⊛	Riparian Condition	What is the condition of stream banks (riparian areas) in grassland and shrubland areas?	No data reported
HUMAN USES			
●	Production of Cattle	How many cattle are fed on grasslands and shrublands?	Trends
⊖	Recreation on Grasslands and Shrublands	How much recreational activity takes place on the nation's grasslands and shrublands?	No data reported

● All Necessary Data Available
 ◐ Partial Data Available
 ⊖ Data Not Adequate for National Reporting
 ⊛ Indicator Development Needed