

plant traits that drive ecosystem functioning? Several new CO₂ enrichment experiments address these questions.

Henebry correctly points out that regional rates of atmospheric N deposition across much of the North American grassland biome are relatively low. We suggest, however, that our higher rates of experimental N addition may predict the longer-term cumulative effects of current regional rates of N deposition on grasslands. Moreover, N deposition increases dramatically across the gradient from the Great Plains to the southern Great Lakes region, where, we believe, it poses a significant threat to native prairie remnants. We strongly agree with Henebry that fragmentation, intensive agriculture, and urbanization are the major current threats to grassland biodiversity. However, even areas that are protected from these threats, but are subjected to elevated N inputs, may still suffer in the long term. In addition, NADP sites are chosen to measure regional atmospheric chemistry and are not located near point sources of atmospheric or surface-water N pollution, such as major transportation corridors, fertilized agricultural fields, or intensive livestock operation. Prairie preserves, especially in the Midwest, are often in precisely such locations and may receive N loads exceeding NADP's regional estimates.

Ecology is ultimately the study of interactions. The strength of our study is its experimental demonstration of interactions between species composition and ecosystem responses to N loading. As suggested by Henebry and Hungate *et al.*, the interactions of N loading and climate change, CO₂ enrichment, habitat fragmentation, and altered disturbance regimes (for example, grazing and fire) remain as critical research questions.

David A. Wedin

David Tilman

Department of Botany,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada M5S 3B2
E-mail: wedin@botany.utoronto.ca

Grizzly Habitat

The grizzlies described in Bernice Weuthrich's article (News & Comment, 25 Oct., p. 493) are hardly "wayward." They are exploring their natural habitat. The "grazing land" they have chosen to forage on is national forest—agency-managed land of many uses, including (one hopes) habitat for threatened wild mammals. The biggest threat to survival facing large predators such as grizzlies in the United States today is not hunting or poaching, loss of prey, or habitat fragmentation. It is the politically

driven approach to their "conservation" through pressure applied to agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

It is high time for biologists to advocate the protection and restoration of endangered species and their habitat using ecological criteria, rather than criteria related to political pressure. Otherwise, these species will go extinct.

Fraser Shilling

Chair, Committee on Conservation,
Society for Integrative and
Comparative Biology,
Division of Biology, University of California,
Davis, CA 95616, USA

Corrections and Clarifications

In a Random Samples item "More private funding for Alzheimer's" (3 Jan., p. 35), Marcelle Morrison-Bogorad's affiliation was incorrectly stated. She is at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

Wade Roush's Research News article "Fly sex drive traced to *fru* gene" (13 Dec., p. 1836) should have noted that Don Gailey led a 1991 study on the role of the *fru* gene in regulating a fruit fly muscle.

The Perspective "High anxiety" by David Goldman (29 Nov., p. 1483) contained two errors. The last sentence of the first paragraph should have been deleted. In the next sentence, the long allele should have been described as containing a 44-base pair (not amino acid) insertion.

In Jocelyn Kaiser's 8 November News & Comment article "Panel finds EMFs pose no threat" (p. 910), Richard Luben should have been identified as a biochemist.

In column two of the first page of the report "Promotion of mitochondrial membrane complex assembly by a proteolytically inactive yeast Lon" by M. Rep *et al.*, (4 Oct., p. 103), the numbering of the mutagenized serine residue "Ser¹⁰⁴⁰" was incorrect. It should have been "Ser¹⁰¹⁵." Throughout the same report, the numbering of the mutated gene "LON S1040A" should have been "LON S1015A."

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be submitted by e-mail (at science_letters@aaas.org), fax (202-789-4669), or regular mail (*Science*, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA). Letters are not routinely acknowledged. Full addresses, signatures, and daytime phone numbers should be included. Letters should be brief (300 words or less) and may be edited for reasons of clarity or space. They may appear in print and/or on the World Wide Web. Letter writers are not consulted before publication.

AN OPEN



AND SHUT CASE



FOR AUTOMATED PLASMID MINI-PREPS.

THE NEW, MINI-Prep 24

- **High Purity**—sufficient for both automated fluorescent and manual sequencing
- **Easy Operation**—begin prep with direct loading of crude bacteria culture; no centrifugation step
- **Fast**—up to 24 Mini-Preps per hr.
- **Consistent Results**—up to 5 µg of plasmid per ml.

Call 1-800-466-7949 now
to learn how the new, improved
Mini-Prep 24 can automate your
plasmid DNA prep. Case closed.

MacConnell
RESEARCH

11339 Sorrento Valley Rd.
San Diego, CA 92121 (619) 452.2603

1-800-466-7949

Circle No. 12 on Readers' Service Card