

Date: _____

Prairie Ecosystem

Changes

The following scenarios describe changes to the organisms in a Tall Grass Prairie ecosystem. Read through each scenario and answer the questions.

Scenario 1. If many of the mice caught a disease and died off, how would that affect the movement of matter and the transfer of energy in the rest of the ecosystem? How would it affect the interactions of the parts of the system?

Scenario 2. If half the bison suddenly disappeared after being shot by hunters, how would that affect the movement of matter and the transfer of energy in the rest of the ecosystem? How would it affect the interactions of the parts of the system?

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Scenario 3. Coyotes are predators that eat pheasants (and other animals). If a large influx of coyotes moved into the ecosystem, how would that affect the movement of matter and the transfer of energy in the rest of the ecosystem? How would it affect the interactions of the parts of the system?

Scenario 4. If there was a government policy to kill all the wolves because they are too close to humans, how would that affect the movement of matter and the transfer of energy in the rest of the ecosystem? How would it affect the interactions of the parts of the ecosystem?

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Scenario 5. If Russian thistle, a non-native plant that is poisonous to bison, invades the ecosystem, how would that affect the movement of matter and the transfer of energy in the rest of the ecosystem? How would it affect the interactions of the parts of the system?

Scenario 6. If some of the decomposers and scavengers died off due to overuse of pesticides, how would that affect the movement of matter and the transfer of energy in the ecosystem? How would it affect the interactions of the components of the system?

