

Application of a floristic quality index to determine vegetation trend

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What is a prairie?

An area with few trees, dominated by herbaceous vegetation, usually grasses

Is this a prairie?



Is this a prairie?

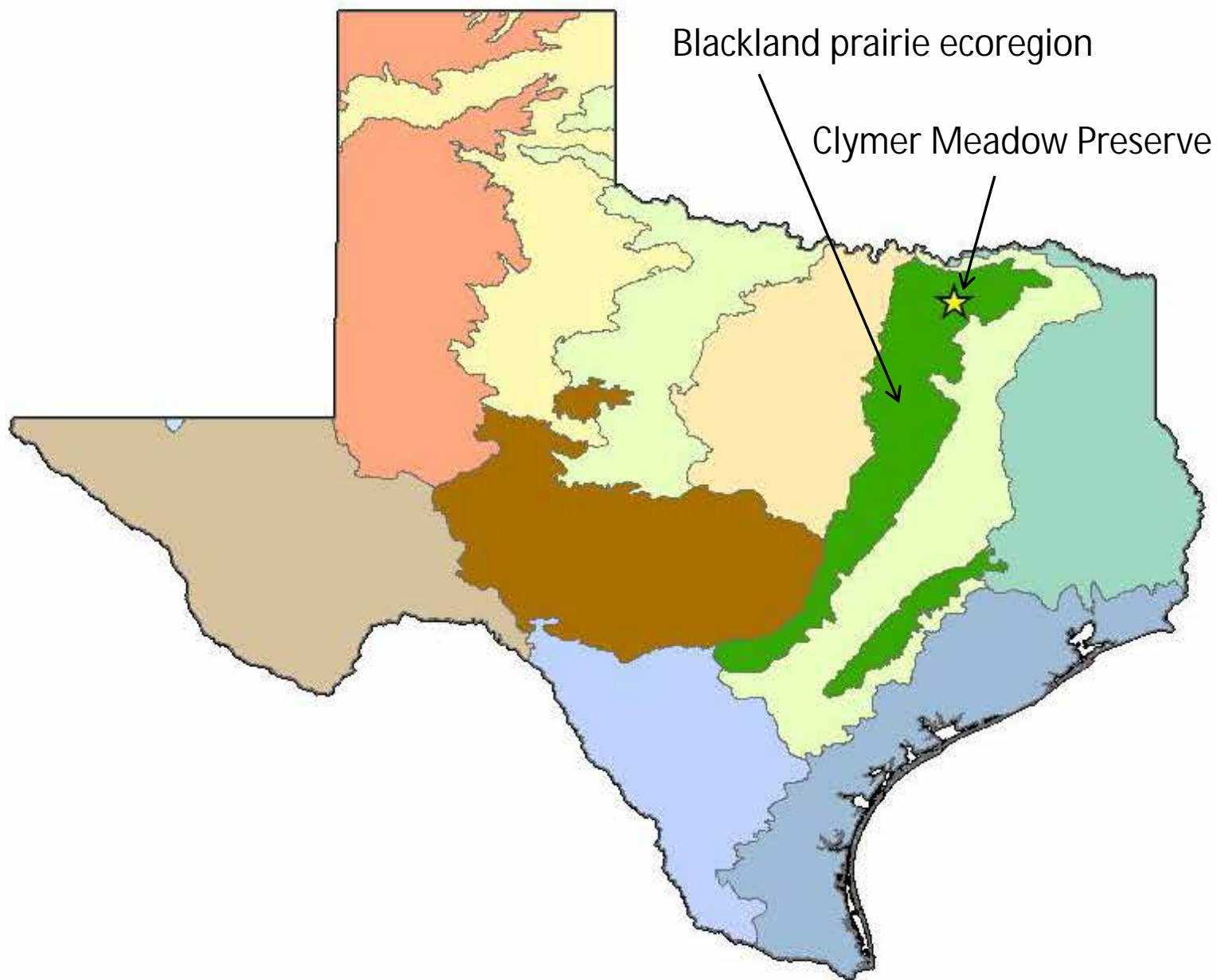


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Is this a prairie?







Blackland prairie ecoregion

Clymer Meadow Preserve

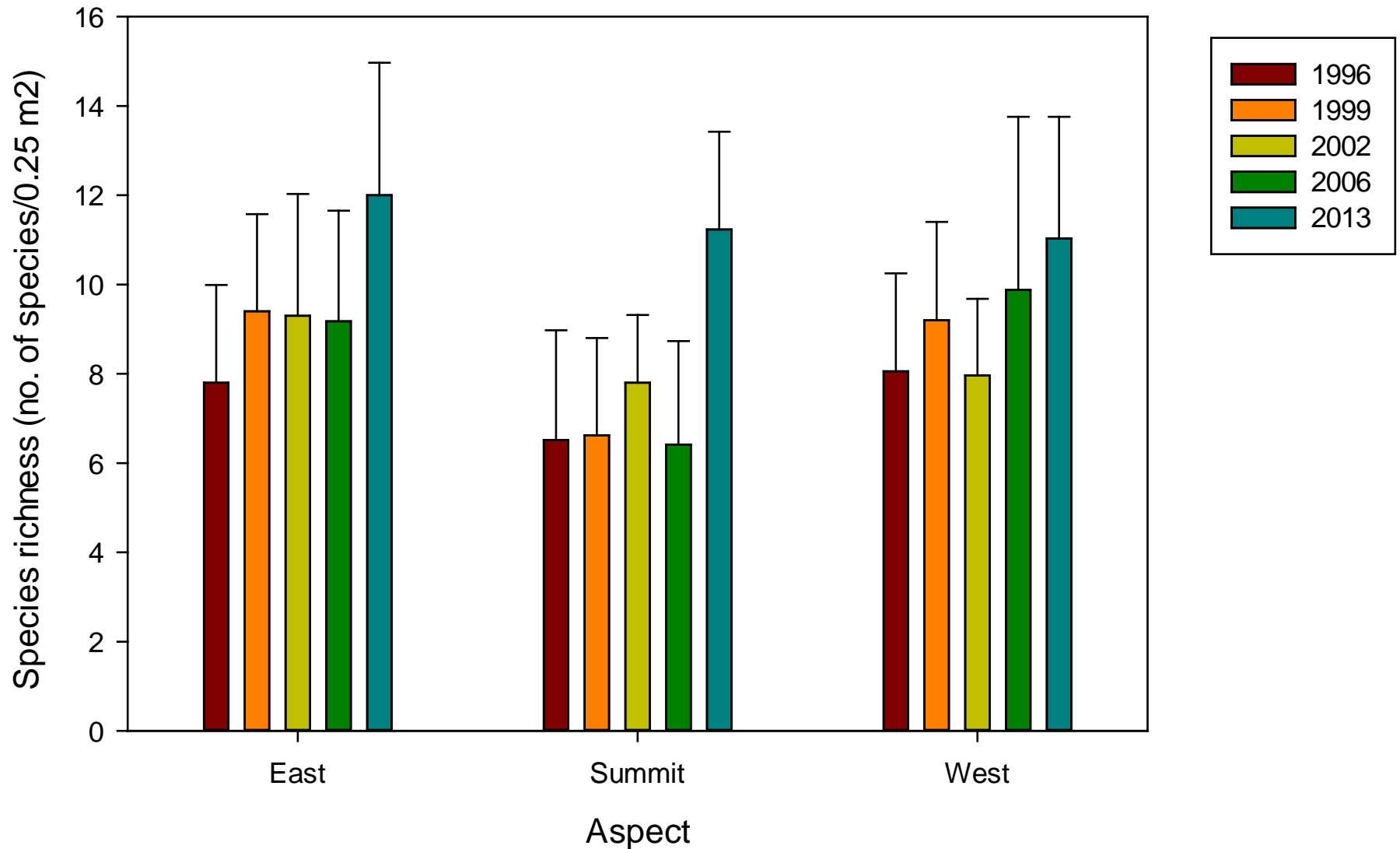
Management techniques







Measuring our management: species diversity



Not all species are equal



Tall fescue—invasive

Prairie acacia—common everywhere



Topeka purple cone flower—
only in prairies



Coefficient of conservatism

- High: found only in remnant prairies
- Mid: matrix species
- Low: early successional species
- Negative: non-native species

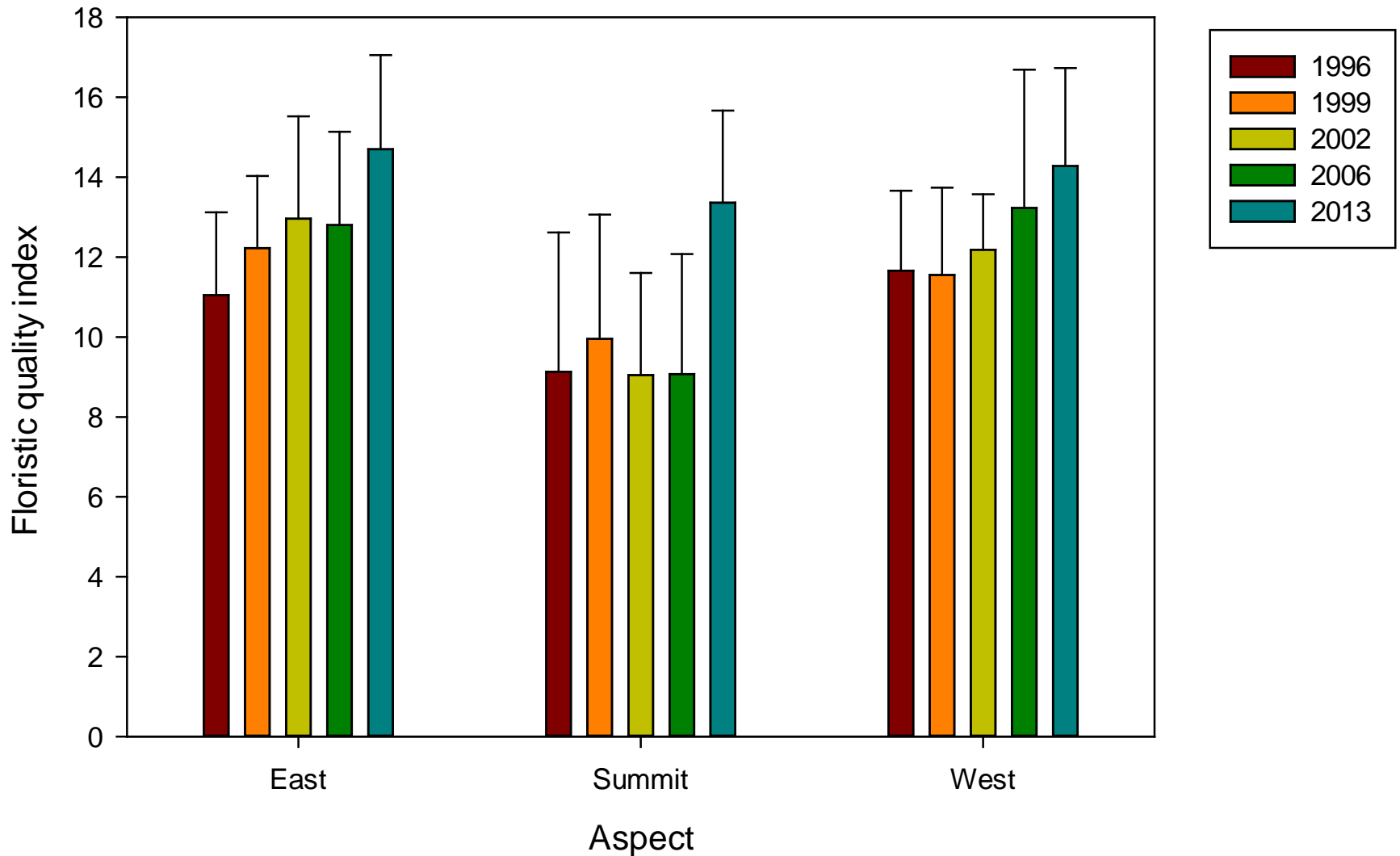


Floristic quality index

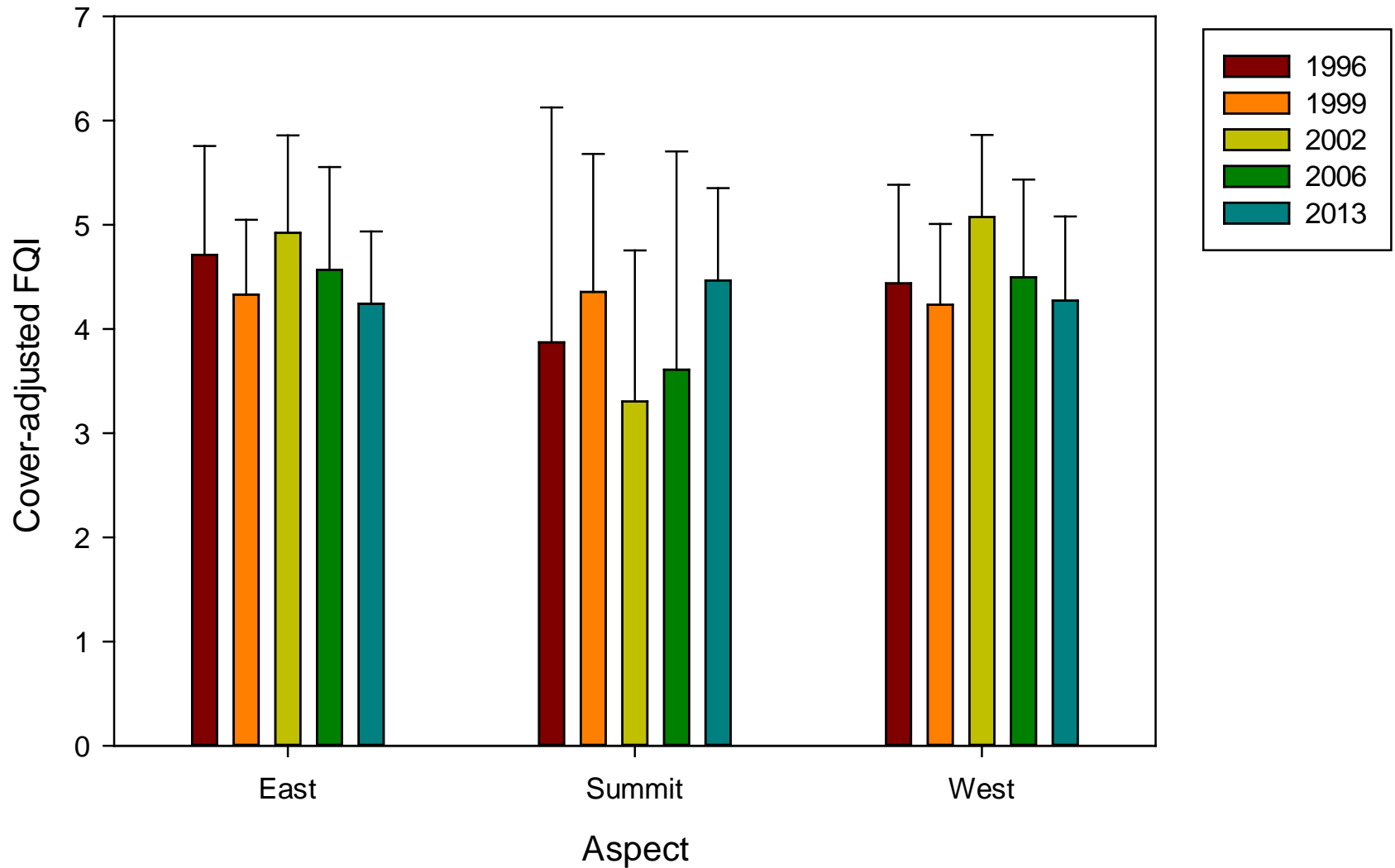
An index that measures the conservatism of the species found in the plot.

Can take foliar cover into account.

Floristic quality index



Cover-adjusted FQI



Future directions

- Changing precipitation patterns
- Use in prairie restorations
- Links between diversity and function

Questions?

