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?
Is this a prairie?
What is a prairie?
Management techniques
Measuring our management: species diversity

![Bar chart showing species richness over time for East, Summit, and West aspects.]
Not all species are equal

Tall fescue—invasive

Prairie acacia—common everywhere

Topeka purple cone flower—only in prairies
Coefficient of conservatvism

- 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

![Floristic quality index graph](image-url)
Cover-adjusted FQI

![Cover-adjusted FQI chart]

- **Aspect**: East, Summit, West
- **Legend Colors**: 1996 (red), 1999 (orange), 2002 (yellow), 2006 (green), 2013 (teal)
Future directions

• Changing precipitation patterns
• Use in prairie restorations
• Links between diversity and function
Questions?