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| CHAPTER 1 | Investigation 1.C: Ecology of an Endangered Prairie Ecosystem | BLM 1.2.15 |
| HANDOUT | | |
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Question: How does the health of an endangered ecosystem affect the livelihood of an endangered species, and vice versa?

Procedure

1. With your group, research the ecology of the prairie ecosystem and one of the eight endangered species listed below that are found in this ecosystem. Use Internet or library resources, or contact an ecologist. Find out about your species' role in its food web and possible explanations for its threatened existence, as well as factors that may be endangering the prairie ecosystem. Consider and collect information you may need to answer the Analysis questions.
 - Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*)
 - Swift fox (*Vulpes velox*)
 - Prairie rattlesnake (*Crotalis viridis*)
 - Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)
 - Sprague's Pipit (*Anthus spraguen*)
 - Long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*)
 - Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)
 - Ord's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ordii*)
2. As a group, list the different trophic levels and links in the food web that your species belongs to.
3. On your own, draw a food web to depict your species feeding relationships with other species. (Share your food web with your other group members for feedback and possible modification.)
4. Present your research findings in a presentation to your class.

Analysis

1. List the main factors threatening the existence of your species, as well as the existence of the prairie ecosystem. Do any of these factors overlap? If so, which ones?
2. How would the extinction of your species affect the feeding relationships and energy transfer in its food web?

