

Speak Up!

The Current State of Knowledge and Practice in Ecological Restoration



Camas in San Juan Islands, WA
Photo: T. Martin



Forest restoration in Georgian Bay
Islands National Park, ON
Photo: Parks Canada

July 30, 2014
Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration

Agenda

3:30 pm	Welcome	Aïda Farag (Moderator);USGS, SER Board
3:35pm	Overview	Cheryl Ulrich, SER Science and Policy Chair
3:45 pm	Panelists	David Ross, DOI Office of the Secretary Judy Haner, The Nature Conservancy Dale Gawlik, Florida Atlantic University
4:00 pm	Small group discussions	Facilitators and participants
4:45 pm	Report on insights	Volunteer from each table
4:55 pm	Summary and next steps	Aïda Farag (Moderator)



Dog strangling vine removal in
Thousand Islands National Park, ON
Photo: Parks Canada

Context and Opportunity



Planting a maple tree
Photo: Parks Canada

Ecological restoration is an evolving field

New practices and perspectives are emerging rapidly

What is the role of ecological restoration in a global context and a changing world?

We are seeking to capture the current state of knowledge and practice to share with a broad audience

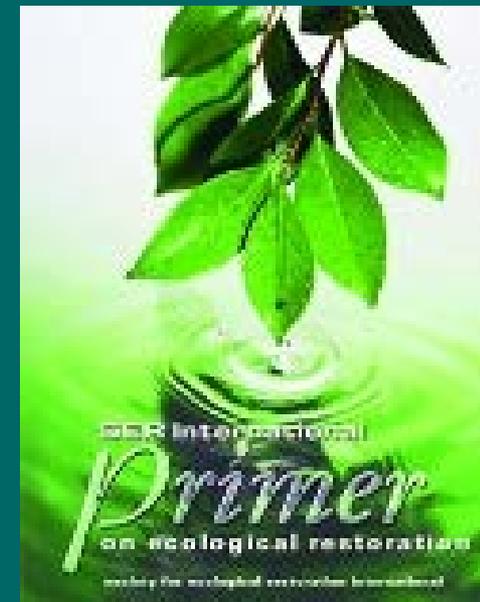
Society of Ecological Restoration

- SER Vision

(<http://www.ser.org/about/mission-vision>)

- Primer in ecological restoration
(<http://www.ser.org/docs/default-document-library/english.pdf>)

- Now SER is developing a new document for a new audience...



Today your input

1. will inform a document written for people who are in a position to influence ecological restoration
2. will shape the consultation processes (Sept 2014)
3. will shape the draft for expert review (Oct 2014)



This document:

1. clarify role of ecological restoration in a global context and a changing world
2. define and synthesize key concepts and recommendations
3. is not a manual, a technical reference, or academic publication
4. will provide guidance on core concepts and approaches, but not describe restoration techniques



Draft Document Outline

Spring showers in a
Garry oak meadow, BC
Photo: Emily Gonzales



- I. Executive Summary
- II. Introduction
- III. Ecological restoration: a cost effective strategy for biodiversity, human well-being, resilience and climate security
- IV. What is ecological restoration?
- V. When and where should we restore?
- VI. How should we restore?
- VII. Who: Society of Ecological Restoration
- VIII. Glossary

Estimated length: 20 pages

Target Audience

a general public who are not experts in ecological restoration, but they are in a position to influence the adoption of ecological restoration

The document should invite this audience to be inspired by the potential of ecological restoration



Media interviewing volunteer at a dune restoration, Point Pelee National Park, ON

Today's Purpose

Share your expertise and knowledge to:

1. describe how multiple disciplines can come together to share a unified vision of ecological restoration
2. tailor recommendations to guide the practice of ecological restoration
3. explore how we restore ecosystems in an era of rapid environmental change?

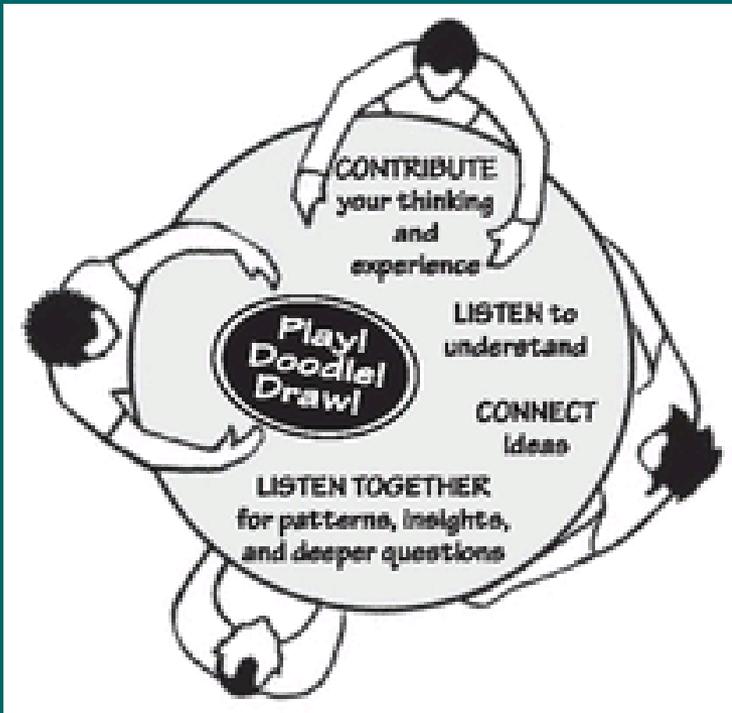


Prescribed fire in Grasslands
National Park, SK
Photo: Parks Canada

Here's what we're going to do...

All participants

- Focus on what matters



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Recorders

- Record responses to questions, key ideas, insights and questions
- Record contact information for project examples

Facilitators

- Clarifying, keeping the focus on what matters

A: SER has clear definitions of ecological restoration.

Do various disciplines consider restoration successful when certain goals are met?

Are those goals different based upon your discipline?

Do we need to bring multiple disciplines to the table early to come to one vision of successful restoration?

B: Key recommendations for ecological restoration

We have provided sample text for recommendations for the practice of ecological restoration.

How might these recommendations be adapted to reflect the full range of projects practitioners work on (e.g. ecological restoration for ecosystem services, working landscapes and green infrastructure, and resilience)?

C: Planning and managing ecological restoration projects in an era of rapid environmental change

How to restore ecosystems in an era of rapid environmental change?



Next Steps



- Input to shape future consultations and drafts
- Expert focus groups discuss key issues
- (Please) contribute and share the online survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CEER2014>

- (Please) Share stories and photos with emily.wrangellia@shaw.ca

**Thank
you!**

Brian Farkas conquering dog strangling vine at Thousand Islands National Park

