

Ten Steps in a Successful Ecological Restoration and Site Planning

1. Inventory and map the ecological resources, and describe their current condition.
2. Describe the site's history, and map it where possible. Use old aerial photographs, original land survey records and maps produced from them, historical descriptions, oral histories, logging records, 1930's economic land surveys, Johnson's fire maps, etc.
3. Develop a hypothesis of how the original system worked. Review technical literature for related ecological studies conducted in the region; visit nearby natural areas.
4. Develop goals for each management unit by assessing the potential of that unit for restoration with reasonable effort, and specifying its desired future condition.
5. Develop an implementation plan to accomplish the goals. Identify and schedule tasks, specify methods, estimate material costs and labor for each management unit.
6. Design a monitoring program to evaluate the success of the restoration.
7. Implement the restoration program. Develop a proposal, obtain funding, establish administrative and field capacities to carry out tasks, install a monitoring program, and then begin restoration work.
8. Prepare reports and papers that explain the project and describe results.
9. Periodically evaluate the program by incorporating new information and ideas into the plan, revising goals, and modifying and rescheduling tasks.
10. Communicate and educate interested and potentially affected parties to provide basic information and comfort with the restoration process.

- **Step 1. Inventory and Map Your Land**
- Task 1. Create a Basemap
- Task 2. Characterize Land Use or Cover Types
- Task 3. Refine Ecological Units
- Task 4. Map Current Conditions of Ecological Units
- Task 5. Review Soil Type Distributions and Assess Seedbanks
- Task 6. Map Drainage
- Task 7. Map Locations of Significant Populations of Invasive Species
- Task 8. Assess and Map Stressors
- **Step 2. Investigate Historic Conditions**
- Task 9. Complete Historic Conditions Data Form
- Task 10. Map Soils and Surface Geology
- Task 11. Understand How Your Land Has Changed
- **Step 3. Interpret Landscape Changes**
- Task 12. Develop Working Hypotheses
- Task 13. Map Ecotones and Gradients
- **Step 4. Develop Goals and Objectives**

- Task 14. Develop Restoration Goals and Objectives
- Task 15. Review and Firm Up Framing Infrastructure
- Task 16. Develop a Project Governance Plan
- Task 17. Prepare a Preliminary Budget
- Task 18. Refine Goals and Objectives
- **Step 5.** Develop Your Restoration Plan
- Task 19. Design the Outline (Content) of Your Plan
- **Step 6.** Develop a Good Monitoring Program
- Task 20. Develop Your Monitoring Program
- **Step 7.** Implement the Plan
- Task 21. Develop a Task List and Schedule
- Task 22. Develop Project Phasing Plans
- Task 23. Develop Detailed Specifications<
- Task 24. Determine Restoration Methods and Equipment Needs
- Task 25. Procure Plants, Seeds, and Materials
- Task 26. Complete Final Budget
- Task 27. Develop Long-term Maintenance Budget and Endowment
- **Step 8.** Maintain Good Records
- Task 28. Decide What Will Be Recorded
- Task 29. Develop a Record-keeping Strategy
- **Step 9.** Review the Project
- Task 30. Schedule Semiannual and Annual Reviews
- Task 31. Refine the Restoration Program as Suggested by the Review
- **Step 10.** Share the Restoration Process
- Task 32. Develop a Plan for Sharing Your Experiences