

Session 7

Monitoring and Evaluating Recovery Progress

This session features presentations regarding restoration. The three main speakers will focus on monitoring and measuring recovery of restoration efforts.

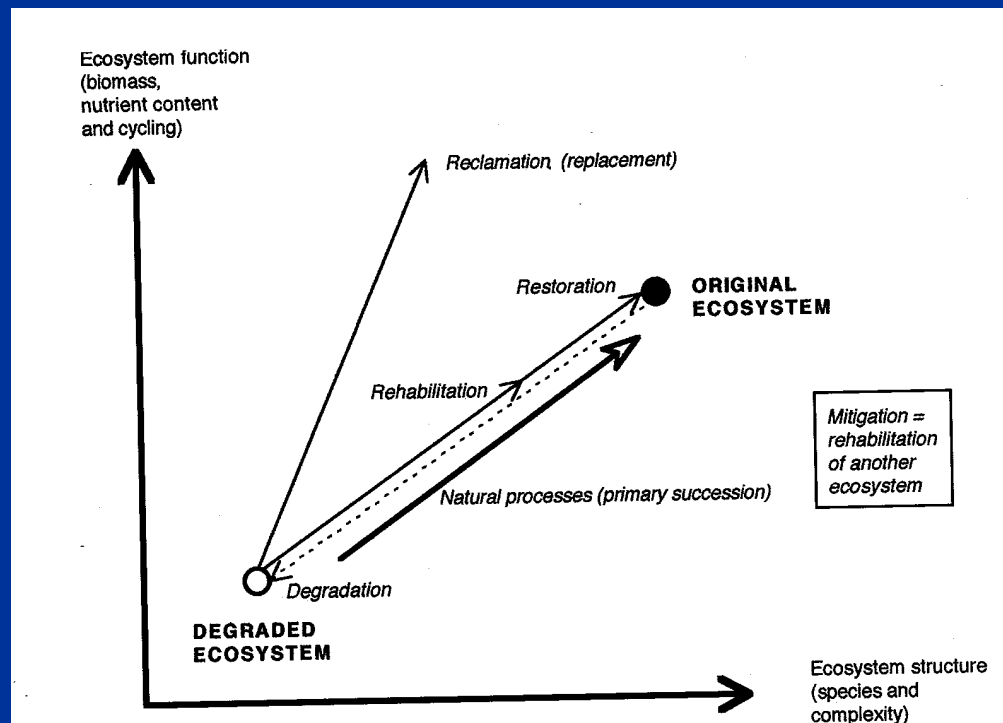
When Is Restoration Appropriate?

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Restoration is defined as returning the degraded ecosystem to a close approximation of its original function and structure. N. R. C. 1992, Berger 1990

Bradshaw 1987



Regarding restoration and mitigation it is important to remember:

- At any site, conservation of existing organisms in an undamaged environment is preferable to restoration in situ, or reconstruction of an “equivalent” system elsewhere by mitigation.

N. R. C. 1995

If conservation is at all possible
restoration or mitigation is not appropriate.

Because of limited resources it is impossible to undertake restoration of all sites in need of it.

- When mitigation is legally required or resources for restoration become available: criteria are needed to prioritize, select and evaluate.
- Triage theory must be applied.

Triage framework for potential sites or projects:

- Those that will recover without intervention.
- Those that can not be restored to a meaningful degree even with extensive intervention.
- Those that can be restored with timely, appropriate action.

Perrow and Davy 2002

It is assumed here you have the data available on which to base categorization of a potential site.

Only category three sites are considered and selections from category three should be based on:

1. Likelihood of success

(ratio of size and duration of resources available, to resources required to correct the degree and extent of degradation and supply adequate post-project monitoring)

If you do not have the data to determine this ratio

or

If you only have resources to do part of the job,

Restoration is inappropriate at that time.

2. Selection is based on opportunity cost

What will be lost or not gained if the restoration is not done.

3. All parties that could become roadblocks are in agreement with the technical plan for restoration

If not restoration is not appropriate.

- If the potential site or project falls in the third triage category and these three things are true,

THEN restoration is appropriate!

In all well-conceived and appropriate restoration projects, monitoring and evaluation are important components.

Defining and Evaluating Recovery

Jean Chambers

U. S. Forest Service