

Ecological Restoration Research: Applications Manual

By Destry Jarvis

The Student Conservation Association (SCA), with more than 30 years experience in the field, is researching and preparing a manual for ecological/disturbed site restoration. This manual will be designed for use by managers and restoration practitioners of uplands and wetlands throughout the country and will incorporate restoration research with practical application methods. Case studies of representative physiographic sites will be included. The manual, to be published in the spring of 1991, will provide principles, methods, and examples for effectively restoring disturbed sites.

Restoration increasingly is viewed by researchers and managers (though perhaps not by environmentalists as a group) as a paradigm for land management. As the traditional conservation movement evolves into a more broadly based environmental perspective, so too has the traditional conservation goal of wise use given rise to modern prescriptions. Currently, the envi-

ronmental movement is working predominantly toward the goal of preservation – the prevention of further resource and amenity degradation. Yet within certain communities, degradation has occurred to such an extent that restoration becomes an important conceptual tool for normative policy and managerial use.

SCA's disturbed site restoration manual will survey the historical, philosophical, and social structure of the current ecological restoration movement. It will advocate that restoration does not compete, but rather augments, the traditional environmental goal of preservation.

Previous land management paradigms have included reclamation, rehabilitation, reforestation, and remediation. These often have been practiced without the ecological worldview that restoration adopts. Thus, SCA's manual on ecological/disturbed site restoration will make use of illustrative ecological principles such as "associations," "diversity," and "productivity." The restoration ecology worldview espoused in SCA's manual will advocate the beneficial use of native species,

integrated pest management, and appropriate methods for sensitive ecosystems.

Recent research regarding the ecological constraints of restoration will be surveyed, as will representative techniques and applications by physiographic regions. Physiognomic characteristics as they relate to specific restoration plans will be highlighted.

An advisory committee of restoration ecology scientists and restoration practitioners will oversee the drafting and content of this manual. Communication from interested individuals is encouraged. In addition, case studies of hand-tool scale restoration projects are solicited for inclusion. These should be no longer than 4 double spaced pages and include detailed methods.

Submissions cannot be returned and are subject to editing. Address inquiries to Douglas Olds, Manual Editor, SCA, 1800 N. Kent St., Suite 913, Arlington, VA 22209.

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