

Ecological Restoration

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Restoring fire-prone forests in the western United States will challenge restorationists, environmentalists, politicians, and community development leaders for decades to come. Moving beyond our current ways of thinking about forests will be necessary. Tough questions are already being asked, defined, and defended—How best to restore and manage forests? Where will restoration techniques such as thinning and prescribed burning be most successful and where are they most needed? What ecological, economic, social values are the most important? This special issue of *Ecological Restoration* examines the often volatile, and certainly political, environment that surrounds dry forests in the western United States and asks: What positive role can ecological restoration play in this situation?

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