

# Ecological Restoration

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### Front Cover Feature:

Parker et al. describe a new methodology developed by The Nature Conservancy to prioritize land acquisition and restoration actions along the Santa Clara River in California. Criteria is based on total acreage, acres of riparian habitat, acres of unique habitat, restoration potential, and required restoration intensity. This method is designed to maximize the size of restoration projects, thereby increasing the chances of restoring and protecting biological diversity. Conservation entities using this prioritization approach can phase implementation of large-scale projects by allowing restoration work to begin while acquisition efforts continue. Photo credit: Melinda Kelley.

### Back Cover Features:

Top: Restoration objectives and habitat suitability overlap between the upland sandpiper and jack pine barrens ecosystems, enabling the use of the upland sandpiper as a flagship species for restoration. Photo credit: R. Gregory Corace III.

Middle: Seed coating improves aerial planting of smooth cordgrass, pictured here, for salt marsh restoration. Photo credit: Henry S. Utomo.

Bottom: Seeding of native plants, such as blanketflower, blue flax, Wyeth's lupine, textile onion, and woody groundsel, enhances restoration success after biological control of leafy spurge on the western edge of the Great Plains in northern Montana. Photo credit: David Hanna/The Nature Conservancy.