

Ecological Restoration

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Front Cover Feature: The North American Coastal Plain, stretching from Massachusetts to Florida and southwest to eastern Texas, was recently identified as the world's newest biodiversity hotspot. Within this region, the longleaf pine-bunchgrass ecosystem is particularly threatened and requires fire to maintain the ecosystem. In this issue, Charles Hess and Walter Tschinkel evaluate restoration techniques to restore longleaf pine forests, finding that successful restoration via fire requires removal of woody understory vegetation. Photo credit: Charles A. Hess

Back Cover Features:

Top: Prairie pothole wetland restoration in the upper Midwestern United States provides vital ecosystem services such as water quality amelioration, soil erosion control, and habitat for wildlife. Photo credit: Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Middle: A seedling of the native plant palo loco (*Pittocaulon praecox*) growing on fragmented rock in an area subject to restoration in the Pedregal de San Ángel Ecological Reserve, Mexico City. Photo Credit: Fernando Estañol-Tecuatl.

Bottom: Cost-estimates, including seed mixtures, provide critical information important for the successful implementation of wetland restorations. Photo Credit: Shawn DeKeyser.