

# Ecological Restoration

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**Front Cover Feature:** Prairie reconstruction is a critical means for restoring ecosystem function and native species diversity in the tallgrass prairie region of the Midwestern US. In this issue, Diane Larson, Benjamin Walker and colleagues discuss a developing database for archiving prairie reconstruction methods, including seed mixes, planting methods, and management, used by practitioners. Using data from 81 reconstructions over a 10-year period, Larson et al. found that seedling rates, management actions, and disturbance history are important factors in assessing reconstruction outcomes. These factors should also be included in the prairie reconstruction database. Photo credit: Diane Larson.

**Back Cover Features:**

Top: Kristen Dybala and colleagues report on the breeding bird communities of restoration sites over 13 years of recovery, highlighting the importance of long-term monitoring in evaluating restoration success. Photo credit: Kristen Dybala.

Middle: Restoration experiments at the Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park in Hamilton, New Zealand shed insight on methods for forest restoration success. Here, Daniel Laughlin and Bruce Clarkson found that enrichment seedling survival depended on both canopy age and composition. Photo credit: Myla F.J. Aronson.

Bottom: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees reload seed while updating the species mix information into each tractor's tablet during a spring snow seeding in northern Minnesota. The integration of mobile GPS technology into heavy equipment has allowed the land managers to better track restoration and management actions in the field. Photo credit: Gregg Knutsen.