

Ecological Restoration

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Front Cover Feature: A hill-top remnant prairie at The Nature Conservancy's Clymer Meadow Prairie Preserve in Texas with pink American basketflower (*Centaurea americana*) and yellow claspingleaf coneflower (*Dracopis amplexicaulis*). Image credit: Charlotte Reemts

Back Cover Features:

Top: Roads and platforms supporting the oil and gas industry have left a matrix of disturbed patches across some protected areas. In the Payunia region of Argentina, Alvarez and Guida-Johnson constructed rock shelters at disturbed sites to examine whether these habitat alterations would increase lizard presence and abundance. Image credit: Leandro Alvarez

Middle: Flowering *Andropogon gerardii* adjacent to prairie restoration research plots at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, Barry County, Michigan. Pitman and Aschenbach report that native grasses responded well to spring and summer burns targeting the invasive *Centaurea stoebe* (spotted knapweed). Image credit: Zachary Pitman

Bottom: Restoring California grasslands is challenging and techniques to improve transplanted bunchgrass productivity are needed. Although grazing and clipping may initially reduce plant growth, Valliere explores whether there are longer-term benefits from these treatments. His study tests the effects of defoliation on the compensatory growth of native California bunchgrass species by evaluating shoot mass and inflorescence count. Image credit: Justin Valliere