Ecological Restoration

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Front Cover Feature:
Woody plant encroachment (WPE) has changed the characteristics and ecosystem function of mesic grasslands of the U.S. central Great Plains. These habitats evolved through plant and soil interactions with frequent wildfires and large population of *Bison bison* grazing and trampling the prairies. Noble et al. examined how the restoration of these two ecosystem engineers promotes or inhibits WPE over short and long time periods. Image credit: Sidney Noble.

Back Cover Features:
Top: Mediterranean pine species like *Pinus brutia brutia* (Turkish pine) and *Cedrus libani* (cedar of Lebanon pictured here) are found throughout the island of Cyprus. Oguzcan studied pine regeneration in recently burned areas of Kalkanlı in northwestern Cyprus, comparing the survival and growth of seedlings in planted vs naturally regenerating areas. Photo credit: Tabby Fenn.
Middle: A panoramic photo of the Sherman Creek Living Shoreline (Harlem River, Manhattan, NY) from the pedestrian lookout at Swindler Cove. The restored salt marsh was planted in coconut fiber mats, surrounded by goose-exclusion fencing and aerial string, with oyster castle structures along the shoreline. Cooper et al. report on lessons learned from working in this challenging urban environment. Image credit: Mary Alldred.
Bottom: On the Algerian steppe (pictured here), 400 km south of the capital Algiers and crossed by the Sahara Atlas mountain chain, Saliha and Fateh investigated rangeland restoration techniques to reverse desertification. Using floristic and soil analyses, they report on optimizing decompaction treatments to improve soil management, and ecosystem function. Image credit: Maidi Saliha.