

Ecological Restoration

Volume 44 ▪ Number 1 | March 2026



Optimizing Seed Germination in Arid Land Forbs

EDITORIAL

What is Passive Restoration and Its Potential Role in Ecological Restoration?

Scott R. Abella

RESTORATION NOTES

Restoration of an Andean Peatland Influences Wildlife:
An Example from the Páramos of Northern Ecuador

*Lilou Galibert, Mateo Vinueza-Guarderas, Segundo Chimbolema
and Esteban Suárez*

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Above and Belowground Approaches to Restoration in a
Grassland Dominated by *Agropyron cristatum*

*Heather Davis, Caley Gasch, Michael Borgreen, Heather Nenninger
and Shawn DeKeyser*

Designing the Fungal City: A Review of Mycorrhizal Networks
in the Built Environment

Vanessa Harden and David Moreno-Mateos

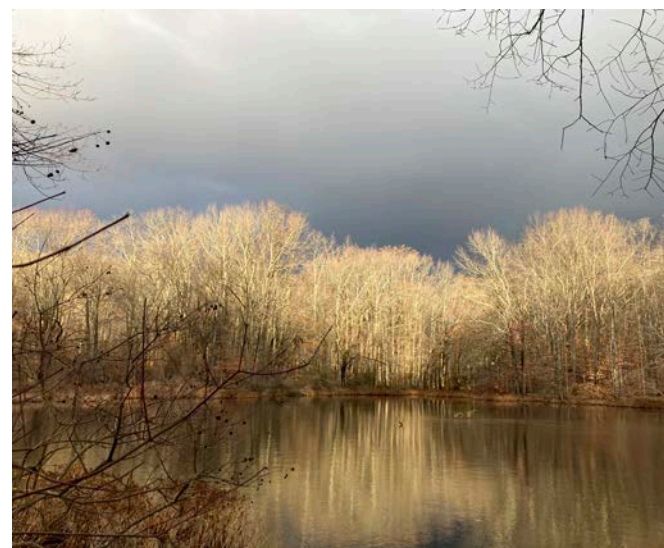
Growth Rates of Mature *Picea rubens*, *Abies fraseri*, and
Associated Hardwoods in Southern Appalachian Sky Islands

Rose C. Wetzel, David Carter, P. Corey Green and W. Mark Ford

PERSPECTIVE

When is the Right Time for Rodents in Ecological Restoration?

Sean A. Neiswenter



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Front Cover Feature:

Clouds lift off the evergreen dominated regions of Roan Mountain (pictured here) within the southern Appalachian Mountains. The higher elevations found in the southern peaks of the range have long supported a cool and wet climate, favoring the growth of red spruce and Fraser fir forests. Wetzel et al. explore how these unique mountain-top forests are responding to warmer, drier weather patterns which favor the growth of hardwoods. Image credit: Rose Wetzel.

Back Cover Features:

Top: The páramo peatlands in northern Ecuador have been drained over the last century to support pasture for cattle. High elevation montane wetlands of the Andes like the páramo peatlands play a vital role in water supply both for humans and wildlife like the white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus peruvianus*) pictured here. To date, there has been little research on restoration of these remote habitats after cattle grazing ceases. Galibert et al. use camera trap footage to compare wildlife use of restored and unrestored wetlands in this region. Image credit: Esteban Suárez.

Middle: New York Mycological Society President Ethan Crenson holds a giant puffball (*Calvatia gigantea*) foraged within the NYC metropolitan area. Underground mycorrhizal fungi networks in urban soils can help connect street trees to important nutrients and signaling networks. Harden and Moreno-Mateos explore how infrastructure design can support mycorrhizal restoration in the built environment and potentially improve urban tree health from the ground up. Image credit: Tabby Fenn.

Bottom: Beavers are known to make dramatic changes to wetlands through dam-building. However other rodents can have consequential impacts on habitats through active behaviors like burrowing or passive interactions such as hosting disease or dispersing seeds attached to their coats. In this issue Neiswenter considers how active and passive rodent interactions may interact with human-guided restoration projects. Human perception of whether a rodent impacts a project positively or negatively depends on the habitat, the timing, and the structure of the project. Image credit: Tabby Fenn.

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Submissions

We welcome submissions to *Ecological Restoration* from any part of the world. Submissions should relate to the restoration of plants, animals, ecological communities, or landscapes. We understand ecological restoration to be a multidisciplinary and diverse effort and welcome manuscripts considering ecological, and social aspects of restoration, as well as political, economic, legal, and regulatory issues, and other subjects related to ecological restoration. Relevant topics also include techniques and tools for planning, site preparation, species introduction, undesired species control, and monitoring. Manuscripts dealing with plant or animal community composition or general ecology must relate the work explicitly to ecological restoration practice and theory. Similarly, material dealing with reclamation or rehabilitation in a broader sense, or with restoration for economic purposes—economic forestry, range management, waste disposal—must be connected to ecological restoration.

Material may be submitted for the following categories (listed as they are encountered in the Journal):

1. Perspectives provide a forum for systematic assessment and discussion of priority topics in restoration, presentation of emerging research topics in restoration or future directions, or critical analysis of lessons learned during restoration. This manuscript category is intended to be more open-ended and does not require original research data, but manuscripts should be organized using a logical, systematic approach with inferences supported by published literature, observations from restoration projects, or some use of data.
2. Restoration Notes (shorter items, approximately 1500 words, describing smaller experiments and studies, innovative restoration technologies and approaches, unusual research findings or observations, or thought-provoking concepts in restoration research, applications, or policy)
3. Research articles or reviews on ecological restoration theory, experiments, socio-ecological linkages, education, restoration history, practice
4. Case studies (full length articles describing a particular restoration project or location and lesson learned)
5. Book, journal, website, or movie reviews
6. Practitioner Highlights showcase the contributions of exemplary individuals, groups, or organizations with a demonstrated record of achievement in ecological restoration. Those profiled can be influential mentors, restoration visionaries, or practical innovators from any continent or community. We encourage articles on individuals or groups that significantly advanced the art and science of the discipline and had a profound, personal impact on the author's own career, pursuits, or views of restoration. The article should describe how their work in restoration embodies a longstanding commitment, noteworthy project implementation, or

creative approaches to restoring social engagement with ecosystems undergoing restoration and beneficial connections between human and natural communities.

7. Status of Knowledge Reviews—Literature or data syntheses of practices, components, ecological principles, or outcomes of restoration at global or regional scales. Syntheses could include narrative reviews of published and/or unpublished information, quantitative syntheses compiling and analyzing datasets, or drawing conclusions from databases and performing meta-analyses. Status of Knowledge manuscripts should synthesize existing information while drawing conclusions for further improvements and advances in the science and practice of restoration.

Authors of full-length articles or reviews should submit their material online at er.msubmit.net. Manuscripts must be submitted with a cover letter stating that the material has not been previously published, and has not been submitted elsewhere and will not be until a final decision has been reached by the editor. Questions about the online submission site, or general inquiries may be emailed to ERjournal@uwpress.wisc.edu.

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Manuscripts are reviewed by experts in the field. The review process is intended to maintain scientific quality and be a collaborative process with authors.

Style

Practitioners of ecological restoration are both a core audience and source of contributions to *Ecological Restoration*. Contributors should use a straightforward style free of unnecessary technical terms and jargon. We prefer the active voice (for example, “We measured three trees” instead of “Three trees were measured”). Please see our Submission Guidelines at er.uwpress.org for more information.

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