



Applied Ecological Services, Inc.

Bringing the science of ecology to all land-use decisions.

Ten Steps in a Successful Ecological Restoration

1. Inventory and map the ecological resources, and describe their current condition.
2. Describe the site's history, and map it where possible. Use old aerial photographs, original land survey records and maps produced from them, historical descriptions, oral histories, logging records, 1930's economic land surveys, Johnson's fire maps, etc.
3. Develop a hypothesis of how the original system worked. Review technical literature for related ecological studies conducted in the region; visit nearby natural areas.
4. Develop goals for each management unit by assessing the potential of that unit for restoration with reasonable effort, and specifying its desired future condition.
5. Develop an implementation plan to accomplish the goals. Identify and schedule tasks, specify methods, estimate material costs and labor for each management unit.
6. Design a monitoring program to evaluate the success of the restoration.
7. Implement the restoration program. Develop a proposal, obtain funding, establish administrative and field capacities to carry out tasks, install a monitoring program, and then begin restoration work.
8. Prepare reports and papers that explain the project and describe results.
9. Periodically evaluate the program by incorporating new information and ideas into the plan, revising goals, and modifying and rescheduling tasks.
10. Communicate and educate interested and potentially affected parties to provide basic information and comfort with the restoration process.