



SURE Ecosystem Restoration methods

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Restoration is the act of renewing ecological “hope” to an area which has been destroyed or deteriorated. We have designed a simple, easy to remember, four step process identifying important steps in restoration. We call this the SURE method.

Survey the site

Uproot the weeds

Re-establish local natives

Evaluate success

Survey the site for clues and remnant species and set goals - Often the most important question is *what are we restoring this to?* There are many tools to help you get you clues for sites that have been degraded for a long time including: historic maps, historic biological surveys, long-time residents of the area, professional biologists. Also, clues may exist on site as to what a site once looked like: what native plants remain, Talk to local land managers.

Find and identify existing natives and bio-materials. Set *realistic* goals based on what you’ve learned.

Uproot the weeds and obtrusive species to make room for growth - Often weeds are the most grave impediment to restoration. Removing weeds as early as possible and as frequently as possible in the first few years is vital for success.

Re-establish local native species appropriate for your goals - Establish natives from existing material and help them recolonize

the site. Often, surveying leads to a list of appropriate native plant species. Cuttings from established natives are a great way to propagate the population.

Evaluate and monitor success and adapt the project as needed - Restoration projects are active, “living” projects that need continuous care when first established. Evaluate whether you are reaching your goals with plant establishment, erosion, wildlife, etc., and then adapt your project as needed.

Most importantly—have fun!



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