Restoration for the Future Does Not Mean Giving up on the Past



Margaret A. Palmer

The practice of ecological restoration has grown enormously in the last decade as countries worldwide are working to mitigate the impacts of global change and recover natural resources. The practice has its scientific roots firmly in ecology and related fields that have emphasized the role of history in informing the goals and methods for restoration projects. Recent emphases on the uncertainty of future conditions due for example, to climate change, have led some to question the relevance of history to restoration. This talk will address why history not only remains important but is essential to a future with self-sustaining ecosystems – whether restored, designed, or natural.