

Even though some uncertainty virtually always underlies the expected outcomes of environmental policies and interventions, especially when outcomes depend on stochastic events such as droughts or floods, most surveys of environmental preferences ignore the element of uncertainty. This paper challenges the assumption that uncertainty plays no role when people care only about final environmental states. In a careful statistical study, visitors to a recreation site in Oklahoma were asked about their preferences for various states of lake quality and their willingness to pay for the desired outcome. The answers differed, depending on whether interviewees were asked to choose between final states or between *probabilities* of final states. For example, people were less willing to pay when the likelihood of a favorable outcome without intervention was high, and a 70% chance of good outcome was considered about the same as 100%. The authors suggest that when faced with uncertainty, respondents are more critical in their evaluation of trade-offs.

Who's Planting What, Where and Why—and Who's Paying? An Analysis of Farmland Revegetation in the Central Wheatbelt of Western Australia. 2008. Smith, F.P. (CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Centre for Environment and Life Sciences, Cnr Underwood Ave and Brockway Rd, Floreat, WA 6913, Australia, patrick.smith@csiro.au). *Landscape and Urban Planning* 86(1):66–78.

Smith examined the drivers and outcomes of government and community schemes to promote the planting of woody vegetation on farms, focusing on two watersheds in Australia's central wheat belt. Between the 1920s and 2006, 4.6 percent of the area was revegetated, increasing the cover of woody perennials by nearly 50%. Conservation and salinity mitigation were the main motives, but erosion control and aesthetics were also important. However, most of the revegetation activity was funded by the landholders, who feel they have done as much as is economically feasible even though it falls short of requirements to combat salinity. The author concludes that further revegetation in these catchments is unlikely unless profitable agroforestry opportunities are developed.

Issues & Perspectives

Using Anecdotal Occurrence Data for Rare or Elusive Species: The Illusion of Reality and a Call for Evidentiary Standards. 2008. McKelvey, K.S. (USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Missoula MT, kmckelvey@fs.fed.us), K.B. Aubry and M.K. Schwartz. *BioScience* 58(6):549–555.

With case studies, the authors demonstrate that limited physical evidence can lead to errors in conservation decisions. Anecdotal data for the Pacific fisher (*Martes pennanti*

paci ca) led to overestimation of its distribution and failure to recognize the extent of range losses. In California, the wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) was considered near extinction in the 1930s; subsequent anecdotal reports suggested its expanding presence; but recent studies indicate that it did in fact become extinct in California in the early twentieth century. Finally, despite many “sightings,” the only physical evidence for the continued existence of the ivory-billed woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) remains one blurry video. The authors argue that as a species becomes rarer, the proportion of false-positive reports increases until false sightings outnumber actual ones and persist after the species is extirpated.

Book Reviews

Revolution on the Range:

The Rise of a New Ranch in the American West

Courtney White. 2008. Washington DC: Island Press. Cloth, \$25.95. ISBN: 978-1-59726-174-6. 248 pages.

A spirit of renewal illuminates *Revolution on the Range* by Courtney White. The book offers a series of inspiring and encouraging stories of people and landscapes and the work they do on each other. Observing that nobody and nothing is winning the western war over land use and conservation, the author and colleagues he introduces in the book embark on experimental paths to a new “radical center.”

White chronicles his journey to the radical center from a more traditional protectionist attitude, and he profiles many others who've reached a similar position from a variety of paths. Cattlemen and scientists, managers and advocates, the stories' protagonists share a point of view more than they share educational background or occupation. Most have some hard-earned personal lessons that have driven them out of the easy stance of “us vs. them” and toward the land renewal movement.

We begin White's journey visiting four ranches in the arid West that have achieved financial success while simultaneously advancing the ecological health of their land. The details differ, but a consistent theme recurs: a willingness to challenge assumptions and try something new in order to increase profits, restore land health, and repair relationships. Stories like these led White and a group of 20 ranchers, environmentalists, and scientists to write an “Invitation to the Radical Center,” explained in Chapter 5. It's a place where:

- the ranching community accepts and aspires to a progressively higher standard of environmental performance
- the environmental community resolves to work constructively with the people who occupy and use the lands it would protect

- the personnel of federal and state land management agencies focus not on the defense of procedure but on the production of tangible results
- the research community strives to make their work more relevant to broader constituencies
- the land grant colleges return to their original charters, conducting and disseminating information in ways that benefit local landscapes and the communities that depend on them
- consumers buy food that strengthens the bond between their own health and the health of the land
- the public recognizes and rewards those who maintain and improve the health of all land
- all participants learn better how to share both authority and responsibility

This manifesto seems politically timely and responds to a desire many people share for getting away from polarization. The radical center serves as the unifying theme for White's experiences visiting and working with a large range of practitioners of land renewal.

Starting from the observation that protected lands are not necessarily healthier than places where resources are used, White finds great value in the caring bond between people and the land, and restoring an active stewardship that fixes what's wrong. He makes a strong case for active stewardship where degraded lands require healing or where the future poses risks to existing land health. Not every case that he presents provides a success story, but learning comes from the failures as well. Most of the examples focus on cattle grazing, the cause of great harm to the health of western grasslands, but, according to White, a tool that can be used to improve their health if managed properly. The key to successful use of cattle is the focus on rangeland health: the health of the soil, grass, and water.

An emphasis on rangeland health distinguishes what White calls a "New Ranch" from a more traditional ranch: "The New Ranch describes an emerging progressive ranching movement that operates on the principle that the natural processes that sustain wildlife habitat, biological diversity, and functioning watersheds are the same processes that make land productive for livestock. New Ranches are ranches where grasslands are productive and diverse, where erosion has been diminished, where streams and springs, once dry, now flow, where wildlife is more abundant, and where landowners are more profitable as a result" (pp. xvii–xix).

Is it possible and desirable to restore the health of rangelands using the very same agent that was responsible for their degradation? White makes a convincing case that caring stewards can deploy cattle as agents of renewal, with rangeland health the measure of success. White finds caring stewardship to be the key driver of success: "This is a book about relationships—among people, between people and land, among ecological processes—and their resilience . . . I

came to see that, whether in the American West or beyond, healthy *things*, cattle, wolves, watersheds, communities, economies, nations—depend on a foundation of healthy relationships" (p. xxi).

With this emphasis on relationships, *Revolution on the Range* offers insight into issues beyond rangeland restoration. I found much overlap with my own experience in restoration of salmon and forested watersheds and my current work advancing ocean conservation. This is a book about rangelands and grazing with much to offer readers whose primary interests lie elsewhere.

This book is not an ode to mere "feel good" relationships or hand-holding exercises with no substance. White has little patience for cattlemen who refuse to acknowledge the abuses of poor livestock management and the obvious damage done by cattle in many places. A key starting point for a New Ranch is an emphasis on measurable success in improving landscape health, including the role of a ranch in supporting wildlife. The relationships at the heart of *Revolution on the Range* are the real, vibrant relationships of a true partnership.

Intransigent cattlemen are not alone on the hot seat. White also decries attacks by antigrazing ideologues whom he characterizes as issuing statements such as "There's only one thing you can do to make this place better. You can leave. Because if you stay, no matter what you do to the land, no matter how good you make it look, it will be unnatural and therefore bad. And if you leave, whatever happens to this place, even if it becomes as bare as a parking lot, it will be natural and therefore be good" (p. 104).

Revolution on the Range may seem a bit redundant at times to an open-minded reader. But the stories of ranchers working for the health of the land conflict so sharply with the prevailing views of western environmentalism that some redundancy is warranted. The unique personalities we meet in our journey from ranch to ranch keep the presentation engaging.

The active interventionist approach to landscape restoration might have seemed presumptuous and risky 20 years ago, but the modern threat of climate change has probably banished this criticism to the back of the room. I doubt we can afford the luxury of letting damaged landscapes lie fallow in the hope that they will heal themselves, when changing temperature and rainfall patterns demand maximum resilience now if native biological communities are to survive and persist.

The examples and conclusions presented here are compelling enough to demand an audience with even a skeptical reader. If you doubt that cattle grazing can restore damaged grasslands, can you sustain such doubt after exploring the diverse examples of this principle in operation? If active stream restoration techniques offend, are you willing to visit and consider some success stories? And, most importantly, if you dispute the primacy of people and relationships in landscape restoration, can you hold your

position after listening to the impressive stories of progress made by focusing on relationships?

Courtney White has been an assiduous student of change, including both changes on land and changes in people, and he presents his thoughtful findings in a very readable book. *Revolution on the Range* should be widely read and discussed; it may mark a turning point in our views on the role of cattle and people in landscape restoration.

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Habitat Management for Conservation: A Handbook of Techniques

Malcolm Ausden. 2008. New York: Oxford University Press. Cloth, \$150.00. ISBN: 978-0-19-856872-8. Paper, \$75.00. ISBN: 978-0-19-856873-5. 384 pages.

This book does exactly what it says on the cover blurb—it describes the range of techniques that can be applied to manage land for nature conservation. There are many other volumes that describe and prescribe the techniques for managing particular habitats (Symes and Day 2003 for heathland, Backshall et al. 2001 for uplands, Crofts and Jefferson 1999 for grasslands, Houston et al. 1998 for dunes, and Ward et al. 1994 for rivers, to name but a few relevant to the British Isles and North West Europe), but this is the only recent volume to attempt a comprehensive overview. In a modest book of 411 pages not all habitats or situations can be included and the level of detail for each is necessarily restricted.

Ausden is clear on the constraints. He focuses on habitats where active management is needed, more particularly where he envisages managing a process of inevitable change. This implies management of succession, often to prevent it in order to maintain a culturally valued landscape. Ausden's aim is maintenance of the best of what is present, while making the most of future opportunities. The management is stated to be for wildlife and to provide places of beauty and inspiration for people, although the latter is largely assumed rather than explicit in the subsequent text.

Ausden also professes a geographical bias to Western Europe owing to his experience and to the wide range of cultural habitats, conservation efforts, and methods employed in the region. Indeed, the text will be a familiar read for a European reader and includes a lot of material on cultural landscapes and habitats originating from centuries

of human use. The different chapters are illustrated by examples from throughout the world, however, particularly in North America and Europe, but also in Australia and South Africa. Sites and species are always clearly labeled with scientific names and country of origin to help the reader. Only the tropics are omitted entirely, although there is also acknowledged to be little on the management of mountain tops, deserts, rocky shores, and below the low-water mark.

Habitat Management for Conservation first sets out a range of principles for habitat creation, encouraging land managers to look outside their own site and see the relationships with the wider area. Although the author sets out to avoid habitat creation and restoration (as these are well covered in other publications), he dips into them regularly (for example, in section 5.10 on diversifying botanically dull grassland). This is inevitable, since new and restored habitats will generally require management, usually of a similar or identical kind to existing habitats, and many require restoration (removing scrub or diversifying woodland structure, for example). It might have been useful to differentiate between restoration and maintenance management, since these often require different intensities of activities.

Another principle worth defining more explicitly is the need to consider your neighbors, particularly if your aims and objectives could interfere with theirs—raising water tables and increasing the risk of flooding on their land, for example. Good neighborliness is important for everyone.

I would also have liked Ausden to remind his audience of the importance of soils, geomorphology, and geology. These (and often archaeology) need to be considered as constraints where they form important features and when considering some of the more invasive management techniques such as soil disturbance, ploughing or rotovating and sod removal (for example, creating bare ground in grasslands, sections 5.8, or heathlands, section 6.5.7, and creating new ponds or ditches, section 8.6.5). It would also be pertinent to remind readers to take any legally protected species into consideration where necessary.

Chapter 3 provides a crisp, succinct, and informative overview of management planning, including the preparation of a management plan. This section should be read by anyone setting out to manage any area of habitat, anywhere in the world. The principles are the same whatever the habitat or context. It is also comprehensive and in particular breaks down all the sections of a plan in a logical order, with clear examples of how to think through and present your information. I particularly like the all-important section on surveillance and monitoring (although I have reservations about the division between these), which no one ever finds time to do effectively. Ausden's examples show how cost-effective proper monitoring should be, avoiding expensive mistakes and ensuring that objectives are met.

Large-Scale Ecosystem Restoration: Five Case Studies from the United States

Mary Doyle and Cynthia A. Drew, editors. 2008. Washington DC: Island Press. Cloth, \$70.00. ISBN: 978-1-59726-025-1. Paper, \$35.00. ISBN: 978-1-59726-026-8. 344 pages.

A number of large-scale, publicly funded and administered ecosystem restoration programs have been implemented in the United States over the last 10 to 15 years. The majority of these programs seem to center on aquatic systems. This edited volume represents a first attempt to compile information about several of these large-scale aquatic restoration programs. It is an ambitious and laudable project. The editors describe their goal as allowing readers to draw their own comparisons among five of the most important and controversial large-scale restoration projects (p. x). They succeed in that goal, although they miss the opportunity to draw larger lessons on their own initiative.

The book includes case studies of restoration programs in the Everglades, the Platte River, the California Bay-Delta, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Upper Mississippi River. The selection of case studies is a strength of the project. Each of the programs examined is large-scale not only in geographic terms but also in terms of the amount of money expended, the number of regulatory jurisdictions and stakeholders involved, and the scope of the scientific challenges. They are all high-profile and high-controversy. Each restoration program has been under way long enough to justify a retrospective look at how it came about, how it is structured, and how successful it has been so far.

Readers looking for technical details will not find them here. The focus of these case studies is on the social, political, and institutional settings of the programs. This emphasis takes advantage of the expertise of the editors, who are both law professors. It is wholly appropriate for another reason: this volume powerfully communicates the many challenges the sociopolitical context poses for these large-scale restoration programs. The law, politics, and economics of these programs are just as important, and just as difficult to get right, as the science.

Each case study consists of three chapters. The first details the program and its context, the second covers the ecology of the system, and the third discusses the economic trade-offs contemplated by the program. The editors have tried to maintain consistency in the treatment of each case study by prescribing a common general format and, for the ecology and economics chapters, having a single author covering all of the programs. The standard chapter format helps facilitate comparisons between the case studies. All of the chapters are clearly written and will be accessible to a wide range of readers. It might have been preferable to put the ecology chapters at the beginning of each case study to set the stage for the program overviews. Putting the project overview first leads to some redundancies because describing the projects requires some description of the

ecosystem, but that is a minor criticism. The case studies can certainly be read and understood as they are presented.

This volume provides an essential reference for anyone interested in understanding these individual programs or mining them for cross-cutting lessons. None of these programs has been exhaustively described in the literature, and much of the information about them is available only through participants. The information compiled here would be quite difficult to find elsewhere, and no other single source compiles information about all of these projects. Researchers seeking to understand any one of these programs will find this book valuable; those interested in making comparisons will find it indispensable.

Each of the overview chapters describes the degradation of the system, the events triggering recognition of the need for restoration, the creation and implementation of a restoration program, and the progress of that program to date. Each includes some discussion of the integration of science into program implementation and of adaptive management. The authors of the overviews have had to make some tough choices in order to hold their chapters to manageable lengths. For the most part, they have made those choices well, but some will cause knowledgeable readers to scratch their heads. In presenting the Chesapeake Bay program, for example, Mary Doyle and Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm concentrate on funding and regulatory programs in Virginia and Maryland. Although they note that Pennsylvania is a party to the key Chesapeake Bay agreements (p. 181), they do not point out that one of the key challenges of restoring the Chesapeake is that Pennsylvania controls a large portion of the watershed but gets little or no economic benefit from keeping the Bay healthy.

Each of these projects is ongoing, so the case studies are necessarily snapshots in time. The chapters are as up to date as possible, and the authors are careful to signal impending changes or future difficulties. In the overview chapter on the Bay-Delta, for example, David Nawi and Alf Brandt acknowledge that the institutional future of the CALFED program is in doubt, the ecosystem appears less healthy than when the program was launched, and the search for collaborative solutions has been replaced by the return of litigation and conflict (p. 143). Still, some of the chapters present a view that seems too rosy. The Everglades overview by Terrence "Rock" Salt, Stuart Langton, and Mary Doyle, for example, while acknowledging funding shortfalls, concludes with a list of "ten elements of success" (pp. 27–31). In September 2008 (after the book was published), however, the National Research Council concluded that the Everglades restoration program "is bogged down in budgeting, planning, and procedural matters and is making only scant progress toward achieving restoration goals. Meanwhile, the ecosystems that [it] is intended to save are in peril, construction costs are escalating, and population growth and associated development increasingly make accomplishing the goals of the CERP more

difficult” (National Research Council 2008). It is a stretch at this point to claim that the Everglades program provides a model for restoration success.

It is understandable that the editors wanted to keep the book reasonably short and accessible, but I wish they had included a more in-depth, explicitly comparative summation. They have assembled a distinguished group of authors, who have compiled a wealth of information and who have attempted to draw some conclusions about each individual project. But it is left to the reader to evaluate the individual projects and to make any comparisons between them. A concluding chapter by Mary Doyle provides a brief checklist intended to facilitate evaluation of these and other large-scale restoration projects (pp. 291–299). The checklist encourages readers to ask whether funding is adequate, goals have been set and are being met, there is a robust and mutually beneficial partnership between federal and state authorities, science is effectively integrated into decisionmaking, a system is in place for conflict management and resolution, and there is an effective public outreach program. A handful of examples are pulled out from the case studies to illustrate the checklist, but comparisons between the projects are minimal.

The checklist for evaluation is fine as it stands, but explicitly evaluating the case studies side-by-side might have encouraged the editors to take the next step: asking not just whether projects exhibit the properties on the checklist but what factors underlie better or worse performance. The next level of questions might start with restoration goals, asking not only whether explicit goals are articulated, but how those goals are arrived at and what they represent. They might ask not just whether funding has been promised, but also whether expenditures have been effective in moving the system toward its goals. They might ask not just whether some provision is made for conflict resolution, but more pointedly whether programs acknowledge the need for trade-offs and provide a mechanism for making difficult choices.

While it may not provide everything every reader would like to see, this book is a terrific starting point for systematic and comparative evaluation of large-scale ecosystem restoration projects. It compiles much of the information needed to make those sorts of comparisons, in a readily accessible form. Hopefully these editors and others will build on this solid foundation.

Reference

National Research Council. 2008. *Progress Toward Restoring the Everglades: e Second Biennial Review*. Washington DC: National Academies Press.

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Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World

Paul Stamets. 2005. Berkeley: Ten Speed Press. Paper. \$35.00. ISBN: 978-1-58-008579-3. 339 pages.

Paul Stamets’s new book, *Mycelium Running*, presents a grand proposal: that mushrooms can help save the world. As a researcher who spends his days working with fungi, I welcome any contribution that brings fungi into the mainstream of the conservation movement, and this book certainly does that. And as someone familiar with fungi, I have no doubt that Paul Stamets’s proposal is true: fungi *can* help save the world. However, most people are not familiar with fungi, and these readers may require some convincing. After all, when people think of the word “fungus,” they also typically think of words such as “disease,” “pestilence,” and, to be honest, “ick.” Luckily, Paul Stamets wrote *Mycelium Running* with exactly these people in mind, producing an accessible, picture-filled introduction to the fascinating world of fungi and how they can be used to save the world (or at least clean up and enhance parts of it).

Mycelium Running highlights the many beneficial roles played by fungi in ecosystems, from old-growth forests to suburban back yards, and is excellent reading for anyone who has ever been fascinated by the small and uncharismatic creatures of the forest: the slugs on the undersides of leaves, the ants running up and down trees, or the branched arms of a fungus growing up from a log. Although invertebrate animals, fungi, and other “obscure” creatures are frequently overlooked, they typically dominate forests in terms of both biomass and species richness. Paul Stamets’s *Mycelium Running* shines a spotlight on fungi, providing a great service to one of the world’s most overlooked groups of organisms.

Paul Stamets single-handedly invented and promoted the concept of mycorestoration: using fungi to restore damaged ecosystems. While other researchers have used fungi to help restore ecosystems (e.g., as classical biological control agents or as bioremediation agents), Paul Stamets makes the point that fungi, with their networks of filamentous cells and unique enzymatic systems, are fundamentally different from all other organisms and require unique terminology and consideration. Although people may agree or disagree with this viewpoint, *Mycelium Running* is the first work to provide a comprehensive treatment of fungi in ecological restoration that is accessible to a broad range of people from academics to hobbyists and gardeners. In addition to discussing many of the technical issues associated with using

be particular cases where a certain species is effective and no local species can be located, but, nonetheless, it seems wise to make a very strong statement that local populations should be used whenever possible. Ordering a strain from the Pacific Northwest is relatively easy in this day of one-click shopping, so people may be less likely to try to cultivate local strains unless a clear and unmistakable emphasis is placed on their value.

The issue of introducing nonlocal strains is not trivial. Practically every issue of any mycological journal announces that another well-known fungal "species" is actually a vast and tangled species complex. Thirty years ago all the mushroom species commonly known as "honey mushrooms" went under the name *Armillaria mellea*. Today, this "species" has been split into at least 10 in North America, 5 in Europe, and approximately 35 worldwide. While many of these species are still referred to as "*Armillaria mellea*," each has its own specific geographic distribution and ecological role, ranging from strongly pathogenic to saprobic. A similar story can be told for *Laetiporus sulphureus*, commonly known as sulphur shelf or chicken of the woods, a popular edible that can be bought as inoculum over the internet. Recent work has split this "species" into at least five ecologically and geographically distinct species in North America, while additional unnamed species within this complex have been detected worldwide. While genera like *Armillaria* and *Laetiporus* have been investigated, there are many, many genera that have not. Labeling an isolate as *Ganoderma applanatum* (artist's conk) or *Pleurotus ostreatus* (oyster mushroom) or *Sparassis crispa* (cauliflower mushroom) tells you very little about that strain, because each of these species most likely represents a collection of cryptic species. The *Pleurotus ostreatus* of the Pacific Northwest is not necessarily the same creature we call *Pleurotus ostreatus* in the Midwest. Given that this situation probably applies to most species groups, rather than a rare few, the only safe way to proceed seems to be to recommend that every effort should be made to ensure that the fungus is of "local origin" (although admittedly "local origin" is difficult to define and is a term that will have to be wrestled with and refined over time).

Although Paul Stamets discusses these issues and the risks and benefits of moving fungi, his conclusion is that the benefits outweigh the risks. However, after viewing the irreversible devastation caused by invasive species, it seems that a more cautious approach is needed, especially since local strains could be developed in the vast majority of cases. Given the diversity of fungi, "going local" for individual ecoregions should be possible. But a strong statement with unmistakable language is needed to inform people of this necessity.

While I feel that the issues of species introductions are critically important, they are issues that could be dealt with relatively easily in future editions of this book. This book represents a large achievement from a very creative

mind, and it is well worth purchasing and reading. It is an understatement to say that Paul Stamets is "creative" or a "big picture" thinker. Stamets has probably done more than any other figure to bring mushroom growing and mushroom products into the mainstream in the United States. If you are not familiar with fungi, *Mycelium Running* will introduce you to the exciting, beautiful, and often weird world of fungi. If you are familiar with fungi, this book will indulge your passion and give you many ideas to try in your own back yard. Once you are hooked on fungi, you will never look at the forest the same way again.

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Recently Received Titles

Wildflowers of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island: In Color

William K. Chapman, Valerie C. Chapman, Alan E. Bessette and Arleen R. Bessette. 2008. Syracuse NY: Syracuse University Press. Cloth, \$59.95. ISBN: 978-0-8156-3185-9. Paper, \$24.95. ISBN: 978-0-8156-0926-1. 200 pages.

An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century

Jack E. Davis. 2009. Athens: University of Georgia Press. Cloth, \$34.95. ISBN: 978-0-8203-3071-6. 616 pages.

Wildlife Law: A Primer

Eric T. Freyfogle and Dale D. Goble. 2009. Washington DC: Island Press. Cloth, \$60.00. ISBN: 978-1-55963-975-0. Paper, \$35.00. ISBN: 978-1-55963-976-7. 350 pages.

Grasses and Grassland Ecology

David J. Gibson. 2009. New York: Oxford University Press. Cloth, \$140.00. ISBN: 978-0-19-852918-7. Paper, \$70.00. ISBN: 978-0-19-852919-4. 320 pages.

New Models for Ecosystem Dynamics and Restoration

Richard J. Hobbs and Katharine N. Suding, editors. 2008. Washington DC: Society for Ecological Restoration International and Island Press. Cloth, \$90.00. ISBN: 978-1-59726-184-5. Paper, \$50.00. ISBN: 978-1-59726-185-2. 368 pages.