



## Developing Restoration Management Strategies and Options

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Restoring grass stands, both native and introduced, require management to improve and maintain a specific kind of vegetative cover to meet management goals. Among the goals could be erosion control, forage production, esthetic values, wildlife habitat, or a combination. Evaluating and developing or modifying strategies and management options requires careful consideration of the current management, vegetation status, and management goals and objectives, evaluating current strategies and developing future options. Once the process is completed, deciding to implement new strategies and options might include answering the following:

- ! Have all reasonable options been considered?
- ! Are you comfortable with and understand how to implement the plan?
- ! Are you prepared financially to implement the plan?
- ! Do you have the managerial ability to carry out the plan?
- ! Do you have the time (labor) to carry out the plan?

### THE PROCESS

Restoration of grasslands can include sites such as overgrazed pastures, crop fields to be converted to grassland, conservation areas, wildlife preserves, or public areas. The approach to restoration requires a determination of the current vegetation status, past management, and the managers desires.

The procedure usually starts with a personal, onsite evaluation. If an onsite visit is not justifiable, the information required can be developed jointly by telephone and internet communication plus mail. In the case of large projects, an onsite visit usually is less expensive since the client will be required to obtain samples, photographs, and other materials.

**The Site Visit** The site visit will be at a predetermined cost based on estimated time and expenses and will include a written evaluation and preliminary recommendations. Other information may include options that could be used but are of lesser desirability with the expected outcomes for each. Recommendations for additional data and information needed to accomplish the final strategies may also be included.

Before a site visit occurs, the following items need to be supplied:

- ✓ map or aerial photo of the site.
- ✓ history and description of previous management goals and practices.
- ✓ any production history if appropriate.

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- ✓ map or aerial photo of the site.
- ✓ history and description of previous management goals and practices.

- ✓ history of past management.

The onsite visit will require or develop the following minimum information to used in developing the background information and recommended options.

- ✓ soil samples may be taken for submission and test results obtained from an acceptable agricultural testing service and plus testing for other conditions that are present.
- ✓ discussion of potential management strategies and practices.
- ✓ discussion of a potential time line for implementation.
- ✓ any other information pertaining to the site or procedures that could influence development of new strategies and practices.

**Report** Within 15 working days of all test results and data being available, the written report summarizing the information developed, preliminary data, potential practices, and possible results, and an outline of the potential long-term management options will be delivered.

#### **Additional Services Available**

On site evaluations following implementation of a new management plan will be made when requested.

#### **Rates, Fees, and Costs**

All services and work will be negotiated in advance. An hourly rate and billing requirements plus what charges and costs will be reimbursed will be included. Sampling, data development, and other services will be negotiated as needed.

"Grass is the forgiveness of nature---her constant benediction."

-John Ingalls, U.S. Senator, Kansas, 1890