

A WORKSHOP ON RANGELAND RESTORATION ECOLOGY

Restoration of degraded rangelands is a rapidly emerging issue for managers, land administrators, state government bodies and federal agencies. Degraded grazing lands produce less animal products, and such lands are viewed critically by conservation groups. Whilst there can be strong incentives for restoring degraded areas it is unclear as to what method should be employed, and where and when it should be applied; not all degraded areas are worth an equal restoration effort.

To address these issues, a two-day workshop was held at the CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology's Rangelands Research Centre in Deniliquin, New South Wales on July 25 and 26, 1989. The aims of the Workshop were to review knowledge on restoration of degraded rangelands, to examine ecological theories and principles for restoration, and to identify needs for the restoration of degraded areas and the prevention of further degradation.

Participants came from several CSIRO Divisions, the Soil Conservation Service of New South Wales, the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, the Western Australian Department of Agriculture, the South Australian Department of Agriculture, Roseworthy Agricultural College, and the University of Western Sydney. Papers presented on the first day of the workshop are published in this journal. Published in this issue are three papers on 'case studies' of restoration projects. The remaining papers dealing with principles for restoring degraded rangelands, together with a summary paper on workshop conclusions, will be published in the next issue.

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