

## SESSION I: IMPLEMENTING REVEGETATION PROJECTS

The field of restoration ecology is still in its infancy. Renewed interest in the restoration of riparian systems has developed out of our recognition that far too much riparian habitat has been lost in California (Sands 1977, Warner and Hendrix 1984) to accept this as a permanent condition. It is essential that we learn how to restore some of what has been lost by turning fallow agricultural bottomlands, degraded grazing land, barren flood control channels, etc. back into streamside riparian forests.

The papers presented in Section I discuss the many factors which must be taken into account during design and implementation of riparian restoration projects. The authors discuss their approaches to restoration and the results of testing specific restoration techniques. The projects presented are representative of the wide variety of riparian restoration projects, ranging from biotechnical streambank stabilization, to mitigation for project impacts, to fish and wildlife habitat enhancement (including the restoration of riparian habitat for endangered species and species of special concern). Both direct (i.e., revegetation involving the planting of native riparian species) and indirect (e.g., installation of grade stabilization structures, fencing etc. to create the proper conditions for natural revegetation) measures for restoration are described and evaluated. Graciously, the authors have recognized the importance of reporting on both successful and unsuccessful restoration efforts and emphasize the need for experimentation and documentation so we can learn which techniques will produce the desired restoration in each given situation.

Riparian restoration is both an art and a science; thus riparian restorationists must be both scientist and artist. By restoring the proper conditions for riparian plant growth and controlling unnatural disturbances, man can accelerate the natural processes of land healing. Fortunately, riparian plant species are relatively fast growing, so we will soon be able to ponder the results of our restoration work and rejoice in our successes.

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