

Differing Standards for Measuring Rehabilitation Success



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Why do we need completion criteria / success targets?

Why are they different?

What are the current standards?



What makes a good success measure?

- Measurable
- Realistic, practical, achievable
- Simple, clear and objective
- Timeframes
- Specific to situation



Survival Rate Vs Stem Density

Survival

- Seedling planting only - other sources excluded
- Can't raise the dead

Stem Density

- Takes into account all sources
- Consistently measurable throughout life of project



Species Diversity Vs Species Richness

Species Diversity

- Complex function

$${}^qD = \frac{1}{\sqrt[q]{\sum_{i=1}^S p_i p_i^{q-1}}}$$

Species Richness

- Easier to define and measure
- Proxy for diversity over subsets of area



Ground / Foliage Cover

- Growth rates difficult to control
- Low cover expected in the first few years
- Should it be a success target?



Weeds

- Cover
- Species presence / absence
- Eradication
- Weed free zones



Timeframes

- Second summer survival
- Reproductive maturity for self-sustainability
- Changing targets



Enforcement

Without it:

- Poor results and management become acceptable
- Inconsistency of outcomes
- Unscrupulous operators can exploit situations



Conclusion

- Increase use of good success measures
- Reduce use of poor success measures
- Be consistent in their application

Result - outcomes will improve

