

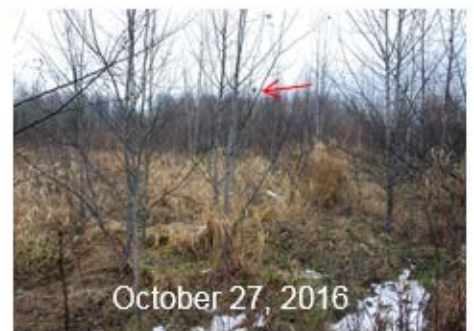
PRE- CONFERENCE WORKSHOP
(Not included in the conference fees)

NATURAL PROCESSES FOR THE RESTORATION OF DRASTICALLY DISTURBED SITES

FEBRUARY 22, 2017 – 8:30 AM TO 16:30 PM (LUNCH PROVIDED)

Natural processes have been restoring natural disturbances since the beginning of time. This full day workshop will explore how these natural processes can be applied to the restoration of sites that humans have disturbed to greatly reduce the cost of restoration. Traditional reclamation treatments can be costly and fail to generate the ecological goods and services that were lost during the disturbance of the site. This workshop will look at how disturbed sites can be re-integrated with the natural successional processes that operate to create productive, self-sustaining ecosystems. We will look at common constraints (filters) to recovery – erosion, compaction, low nutrients, lack of propagules, herbivory, etc. and how natural systems solve these problems. We will explore practical methods of applying these solutions to anthropogenic disturbances often at a fraction of the cost of some current reclamation practices. Soil bioengineering techniques for the treatment of steep and/or unstable sites will be presented. The course will include a brief overview of monitoring and maintenance strategies.

Who should attend? Those engaged in restoration planning and implementation for drastically disturbed sites including large mines, upstream oil & gas sites, transportation corridors and other significant disturbances.



Restored gas plant site south of Edmonton. The red arrows show an osprey nest that was located at the edge of the site.

INSTRUCTOR

David F. Polster, R.P. Bio. is a plant ecologist with almost 40 years of experience in vegetation studies, reclamation and invasive species management. He graduated from the University of Victoria with an Honours Bachelor of Science degree in 1975 and a Master of Science degree in 1977. He has developed a wide variety of reclamation techniques for mines, industrial developments and steep/unstable slopes as well as techniques for the re-establishment of riparian and aquatic habitats. He is the past-president (third term) of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association. He is the treasurer for the B.C. Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration and is on the board of the International Society for Ecological Restoration. He served as the alternate mining representative on the board of the Invasive Species Council of B.C. for 9 years.

WORKSHOP OUTLINE:

8:30 - 9:15 Traditional Reclamation

9:15 – 10:15 Introduction to Ecosystem Recovery Processes



10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 - 11:30 Successional Restoration Model

11:30 - 12:00 Filters to Recovery and Solutions: lack of nutrients, erosion, and others



12:00 – 12: 45 Lunch Provided

12:45 - 13:45 Barriers to Recovery and Solutions: Continue

13:45 - 14:30 Restoration of Drastically Disturbed Sites: Mines and Oil & Gas disturbances, steep and unstable slopes, shorelines and erosion problems



14:30 - 14:45 Coffee Break

14:45 - 15:15 Restoration of Drastically Disturbed Sites: Continue

15:15 - 16:30 Implementation, Monitoring and Questions (David will be available till 17:00 for additional questions)

***Workshop manual will be provided via email. Please note there is limited space for this workshop.**

Registration Form: www.clra.ca

Contact Tamara Meyer at 780-437-0044 if you have questions regarding registration.

Contact Fannie Desrosiers at 403-990-0160 or email fannie.desrosiers@wspgroup.com if you have questions regarding the workshop.