

Historical Ecology as a Living Resource for Informing Urban Wetland Restoration

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ABSTRACT

In the urban environments of California, much of the academic understanding of wetland and riparian ecology is derived from systems highly modified by human activities. Therefore, identifying appropriate un-impacted reference conditions or distinguishing natural processes from anthropogenic effects can be difficult. Research in historical ecology provides valuable insight into historical reference conditions and the driving forces of ecosystem change. New tools and technology allow scientific components of historical ecology to evolve such that standardized approaches to hypothesis testing are now available. The technical rigor imparted by these tools makes historical analysis more valuable for understanding ecosystem function and for developing sound restoration planning.

Full Text

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