

INTEGRATING RESTORATION TECHNIQUES WITH MANAGEMENT METHODS FOR INVASIVE WEEDS. Mark J. Renz, Assistant Professor University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53715.

Invasive weeds impact natural areas in multiple ways that can dramatically affect the plant and animal communities. Typically management is recommended when the goals of the land being managed oppose how these invasive plants impact the habitat. While land managers employ a wide range of management methods, often restoration and weed management methods are not integrated. As a result either some initial management is or is not conducted followed by planting of a wide range of desirable plant species. After plantings, desirable plants are either slow or fail to establish due to competition with invasive weeds. Careful consideration of the life history and biology of the weed species and desirable plants are required to successfully integrate weed control with restoration techniques as management of invasive weeds often need to be repeated for multiple years to eradicate populations. By planting plant species that can tolerate management methods to be employed, land managers can initiate revegetation with desirable species while managing invasive plants. When weed populations have been reduced to low enough levels, additional plant species can be planted to obtain the desired plant community. While restoration of natural lands often take many years, the integration of weed management methods with revegetation can reduce the time-span for establishment of desirable and diverse plant communities.