

Chapter 13 Restoration Ecology

Restoration involves many methods designed to remediate damage to ecosystems. The amount of biodiversity indicates the health of an ecosystem. Restoring vital ecosystems and maintaining high levels of biodiversity ensure the ability of the ecosystem to recover from a stress. Low levels of biodiversity may make an ecosystem vulnerable; the restoration of vital ecosystems maintains biodiversity.

Many factors affect restoration ecology. Resilience plays a role in secondary succession. Fire plays a role in maintaining natural ecosystems and the cycling of nutrients. The nitrogen cycle and the carbon cycle, which you have studied previously, pertain to the topics discussed in this chapter.