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Moderation of "Historical landscape ecology of an urbanized California valley: wetlands and woodlands in the Santa Clara Valley by Grossinger & colleagues

- The article focused on some important factors to consider before a restoration: It requires a range of people with different expertise from historians to geosciences specialists to prepare for a restoration, not just ecologists and habitat management staff.
- Historical landscape reconstruction can help scientists and managers set restoration references and targets, develop landscape level conservation strategies, and evaluate the success of these endeavors. (p. 103)
- **Why is this important?** The use of historical records is important because urban, suburban, and agricultural development can change the landscape and prevent environmental managers as well as the public from conservation and restoration opportunities.
- **Data:** Archival-historical maps; original data by applying GIS to document features
- They wanted to find data on the landscape that existed prior to significant Euro-American modification. The issue with this statement is that when would be considered "significant modification" and the data had flaws because there was not enough detail. They settled on 1770s-1940s data because those data were stable.
- It is challenging to interpret documents that were produced during different eras. They addressed these concerns by carrying out background research into the techniques and reliability of the available historical records
- **5 land cover types:** freshwater marsh, wet meadow, alkali meadow, willow grove, and valley oak savanna. The results showed that all these areas have suffered a great decline in percentages.
- They argue that historical landscape reconstruction should play a tole in identifying sites and strategies which, because of extensive landscape modification, are not readily obvious.
- Sycamore alluvial woodlands, alkali meadows, and willow groves were significant parts of pre-Euro American landscape but native habitat management did not consider them in planning

- Future researches **1)** site-specific investigation to see whether the suggested approaches are possible given local environmental factors **2)** examination of pre-colonial, indigenous management regimes
- We discussed the importance of this study was that people may find out what they thought was true for the landscape wasn't quite true
- There is a bias that is connected to restoration. At what point in history do you restore a habitat to? Obviously, people restore it to the stage that is their bias. A couple people disliked the term "restoration"
- Classmates posed question: what are we restoring towards? It must be towards something that can benefit humans in some way. We restore towards things we think were there.
- Even if the historical landscape is rediscovered, there could be problems with trying to restore it back. There may have been too many changes and pollutants that alter the chemistry of the soil to make it viable to bring back such landscapes.
- This article had a qualitative theme but became very quantitative in the methods and data sections. This was necessary because of the applications used. It is not unusual for projects to contain both qualitative and quantitative analyses.
- We still don't look into the role of succession when trying to restore habitat. It could be effective to research into what organisms are there first, then gradually they will be succeeded by others.