

CHAPTER 6

Resources

Do you know what resources you need or what resources your site already has to aid you?



Seed, nutrient cycling and water (and how they come and go). All of the above are resources (and there are many more) that do not require toil or dollars. But each is nonetheless fundamental to the success of restoration on your site. Do you know what species used to grow on your site (and thus what living resources you may need)? When do they flower, how often and when is the seed set? Such resources are not necessarily inherent, static or inert. Is there good nutrient cycling on your site, is there a healthy fungi complement on your site, and will these alter if you plough the soil? Your actions with respect to these resources can profoundly alter the site's trajectory. What are the water dynamics on your site: is it fresh or salty? Water is a powerful disturbance agent in rainforest: does it benignly ooze out of the bank as a spring, or does it come from floods (and how violent and frequent are they)? Do the pools persist over summer and thereby help insulate the site from fire?