

Assessing Destruction and Reconstruction of Ecological Complexity

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Ecological systems are complex and often behave in non-intuitive ways. Nevertheless, there are often patterns observed or emerging from analysis that suggest that these systems may have simple governing rules that can be modelled. Of great importance is the question: How do ecological systems reassemble after varying degrees of perturbation, man-made or natural? To answer this question we and our collaborators monitor and model ecological recovery of both macro (plant) and micro (microbial) communities from perturbation. Of additional interest to ecologists is how complexity can be re-captured through the process of ecological rehabilitation. We will present new cases studies focusing on the Sudbury area and comment on the need for new computational methods to untangle ecological complexity.

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