



SCOPING A RESTORATION KNOWLEDGE HUB

Survey Results and Recommendations

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Executive Summary

In June 2024, the Society of Ecosystem Restoration in northern BC (SERNbc) hosted a workshop with key partners to establish a Community of Practice (COP) for ecosystem restoration in northern BC. During the workshop, participants identified the need for a centralized knowledge hub to support restoration practitioners by providing resources and fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing. The knowledge hub aims to address knowledge gaps, support practitioners and encourage engagement within the restoration community.

To better understand the needs of potential users, a survey was conducted among COP workshop participants to gather insights on the desired features, resources and preference for a knowledge hub. The survey included 16 questions related to the participants' roles, motivations, past experiences with similar platforms and willingness to contribute. A total of 25 responses to the survey were received (25% response rate).

Key findings from the survey include:

- **Roles and Interests:** Most respondents help others access knowledge, with a strong focus on forest, riparian and wetland restoration. Peer-to-peer knowledge sharing emerged as a key opportunity.
- **Information-Seeking:** Respondents typically seek information from peers, websites and searchable databases, preferring synthesized content such as restoration best practices as well as peer-reviewed articles. Restoration best practices and synthesis briefs were identified as the most valuable resources for a knowledge hub, while contact directories, maps and calendars are of secondary importance.
- **Information Sharing:** Most respondents frequently share synthesized resources with colleagues and trust summaries that provide clear recommendations or best practices. They rarely analyze raw data or contact authors for further questions.
- **Features and Functionality:** Top priorities for the hub include filtering by category, an advanced search bar and mapping of projects/resources, with an initial focus on northern BC.
- **Willingness to Contribute:** Respondents expressed strong interest in contributing to the hub, emphasizing the difficulty of accessing consolidated monitoring data and addressing information gaps in ecological restoration. Responses highlighted how the hub could fill these knowledge gaps by centralizing resources, and they were eager to support and contribute to its development.
- **Governance:** A flexible, simple governance structure is preferred, connecting to the broader restoration community.



The survey results indicate that there is strong support for the development of a restoration knowledge hub that meets the needs of practitioners in the field.

Recommendations and Next Steps:

- **Leverage existing knowledge hubs and resource libraries.** Instead of building a new knowledge hub, collaborate with existing platforms to reduce costs, accelerate timelines and efficiently house restoration resources by leveraging collaborative investments of other organizations. Top suggestions for existing hubs include the Society for Ecological Restoration, and the Canadian Conservation and Land Management Knowledge Portal (CCLM).
- **Start with northern BC as a focus.** Begin by prioritizing resources specific to northern BC, establishing credibility and supporting the needs of the existing COP. Gradually expand to include other regions.
- **Develop a Knowledge Exchange Strategy.** Create a strategy with clear one-year, three-year and five-year goals. Promote the hub and its resources through webinars, briefing notes and reports, ensuring consistent user engagement. Prioritize peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing events to mobilize practitioners and direct them to valuable resources on the hub.

This report summarizes the survey findings and provides recommendations for the next steps in developing a restoration knowledge hub that aligns with user needs and priorities.



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Background and Context

THE NEED FOR A KNOWLEDGE HUB

In June 2024, the Society of Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC (SERNbc) hosted a workshop in Prince George, BC, with the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF), the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) and the Pacific Salmon Foundation. The workshop brought together researchers and practitioners to launch a Community of Practice (COP) for restoration work in northern BC.

During the workshop, participants identified the importance of establishing a centralized knowledge hub as a key next step to support the COP and foster engagement. A knowledge hub would provide a platform for hosting essential resources, webinars, and other relevant content, ensuring practitioners have access to tools that support their restoration work.

The knowledge hub aims to:

- Support practitioners in ecosystem restoration by addressing knowledge gaps.
- Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing across the restoration community.
- Create a reciprocal platform for relationship-building between practitioners and their work.

INFORMING THE VISION FOR THE HUB

To understand the needs and priorities of potential users, a survey was conducted with the COP workshop participants. This report synthesizes the survey results and provides initial recommendations to guide decision-making as the planning committee explores the next steps for developing the restoration knowledge hub.

Approach

To better understand the needs and preferences of the restoration community, a survey was distributed to 100 participants from the initial Restoration COP workshop held in June 2024. The purpose of the survey was to gather insights on desired features for a potential knowledge hub, and to assess participants' likelihood to use and contribute to such a platform. In total, 25 responses were received, providing valuable data on the community's priorities and expectations.

The survey was conducted online using Microsoft Forms, and participants were invited to complete the survey via email. The survey was anonymous.



SURVEY DEVELOPMENT AND RESPONSE ANALYSIS

The survey questions were developed with input from the Restoration COP planning committee to refine the final set of 16 questions. The questions covered a range of topics, including:

- Participants roles within restoration work.
- Interests and motivations for engaging with a knowledge hub.
- Desired content and resources.
- Functionality preferences and user experience.
- Past experiences with similar platforms.

The full list of survey questions is included in



Appendix A: Survey Questions for reference.

The survey responses were analyzed to identify trends and preferences, and the results were visualized through a series of graphs to aid interpretation. These findings are discussed in subsequent sections of the report and are intended to guide the Restoration COP planning committee in shaping the potential future development of a knowledge hub.

What We Heard from the Community of Practice

This section presents the findings from the survey conducted with COP workshop participants to explore their preferences and needs for the proposed restoration knowledge hub. The results provide insights into where to begin when developing a hub that can best support restoration practitioners in northern BC. The following data visualizations and summaries highlight key trends and priorities identified by respondents.

ROLES AND INTERESTS

To understand the makeup of the potential knowledge hub audience, respondents were asked to describe their role and primary areas of expertise related to restoration. This information provides insight into the diversity of participant roles and helps to tailor the hub to meet their needs.

Figure 1 shows that 11 respondents (46%) primarily help others access knowledge, while 11 (46%) also contribute to prescriptions or plans but are not decision-makers. Additionally, 10 respondents (42%) review the plans or recommendations shared by other groups, and 9 respondents (38%) are involved in making landscape-scale stewardship decisions or developing restoration plans. Another 9 respondents (38%) conduct research on restoration or support restoration research institutions.

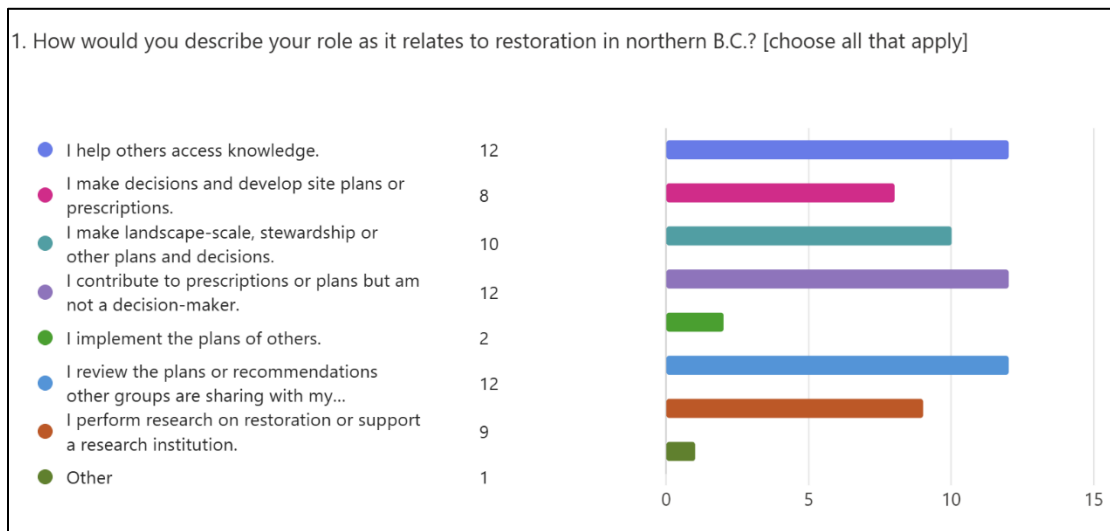


Figure 1. Roles of survey respondents.

These findings emphasize the importance of providing resources that cater to both site-level and broader landscape management needs, as roles within the Restoration COP are interconnected and varied.

The primary areas of interest or expertise in restoration among respondents were diverse, with most respondents (45%) focusing on forest restoration, 25% on riparian restoration, 23% on wetland restoration and 8% on other areas (Figure 2).

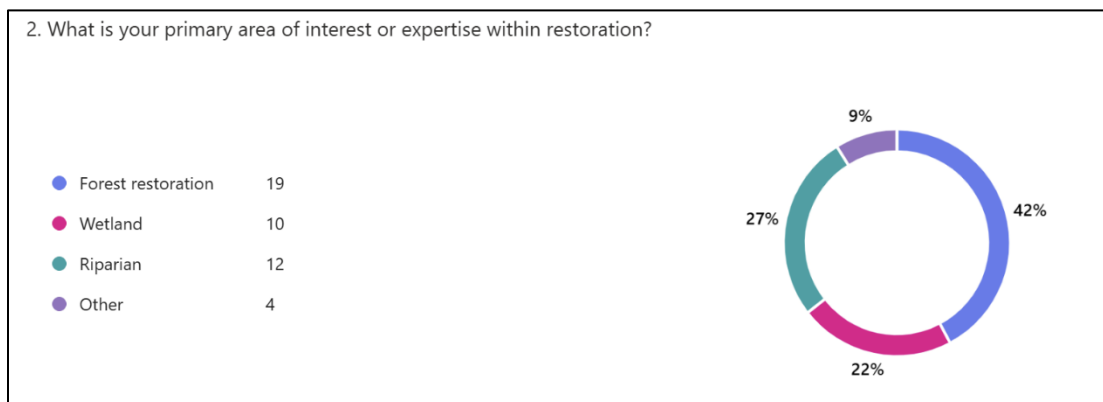


Figure 2. Respondent primary areas of interest.

Given that forest restoration was identified as the primary area of interest by the largest group of respondents, this topic should be emphasized in the knowledge hub. At the same time, the hub should also be designed to address a wide range of restoration topics, ensuring that resources for wetland and riparian restoration are included to support the full spectrum of interests across the COP.



INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOURS

Respondents were asked a series of questions to examine how potential users currently access information, contacts and resources related to restoration. The following questions provide insight into the types of features and content that would be most valuable to the knowledge hub.

Figure 3 shows that respondents most commonly seek information from their peers, websites with resource libraries and searchable databases. Field tours, workshops or conferences were also common ways of finding and sharing information. These findings suggest that a successful restoration knowledge hub should integrate resource libraries and searchable databases. There is an opportunity to explore integrating a peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing component, such as creating a content committee or regular events dedicated to sharing insights and best practices. Additionally, the hub could complement these features by incorporating insights or resources gathered from field tours and workshops, ensuring it aligns with the ways practitioners already engage with information.

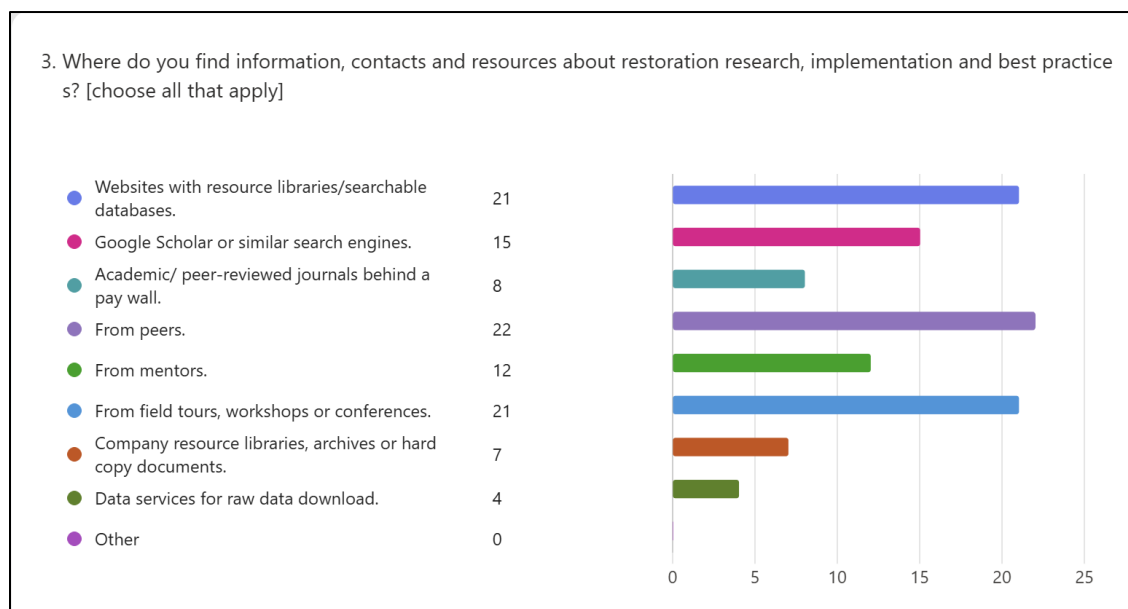


Figure 3. Respondent information sources.

Figure 4 shows that respondents would most frequently access restoration best practices and synthesis briefs related to restoration on a knowledge hub, followed by peer-reviewed articles. These resource types should be prioritized, while contact directories, maps and calendars of restoration events are of secondary importance. Raw data and job opportunities were identified as the least-accessed resources.

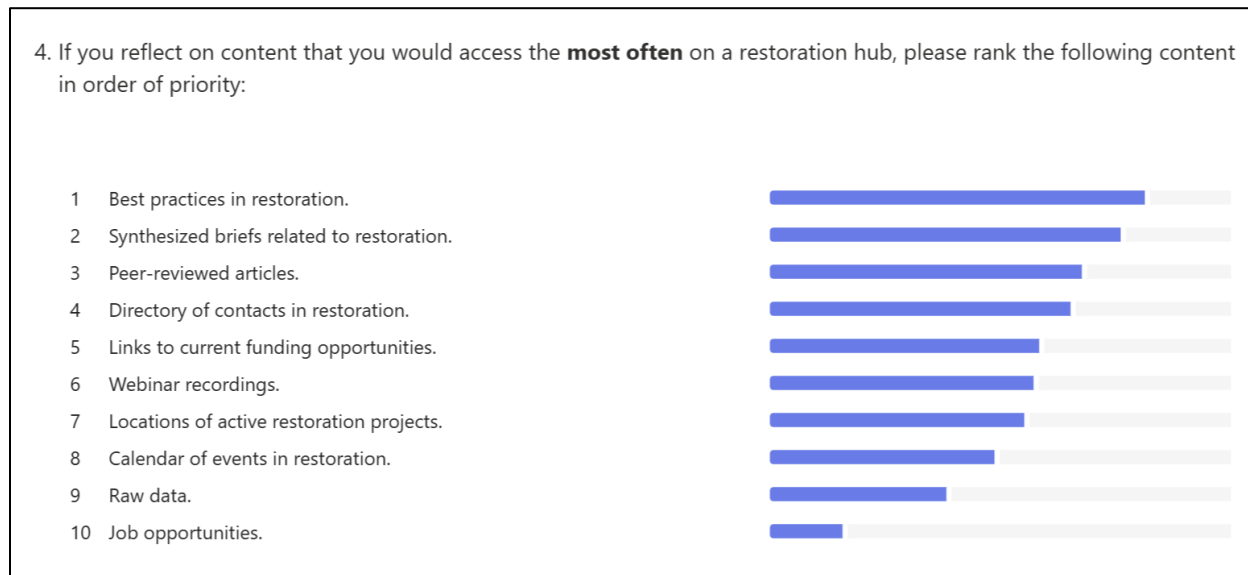


Figure 4. Content that respondents would access most often.

Figure 5 shows that most respondents frequently share resources they find with colleagues and often seek synthesized information that provides clear recommendations, or best practices and trust the relevance and credibility of those summaries. In contrast, respondents rarely or never engage in analyzing raw data using their own software or contact the author of a resource to ask deeper questions. This suggests that a knowledge hub should prioritize sharing practical, synthesized content that can easily be shared among peers.

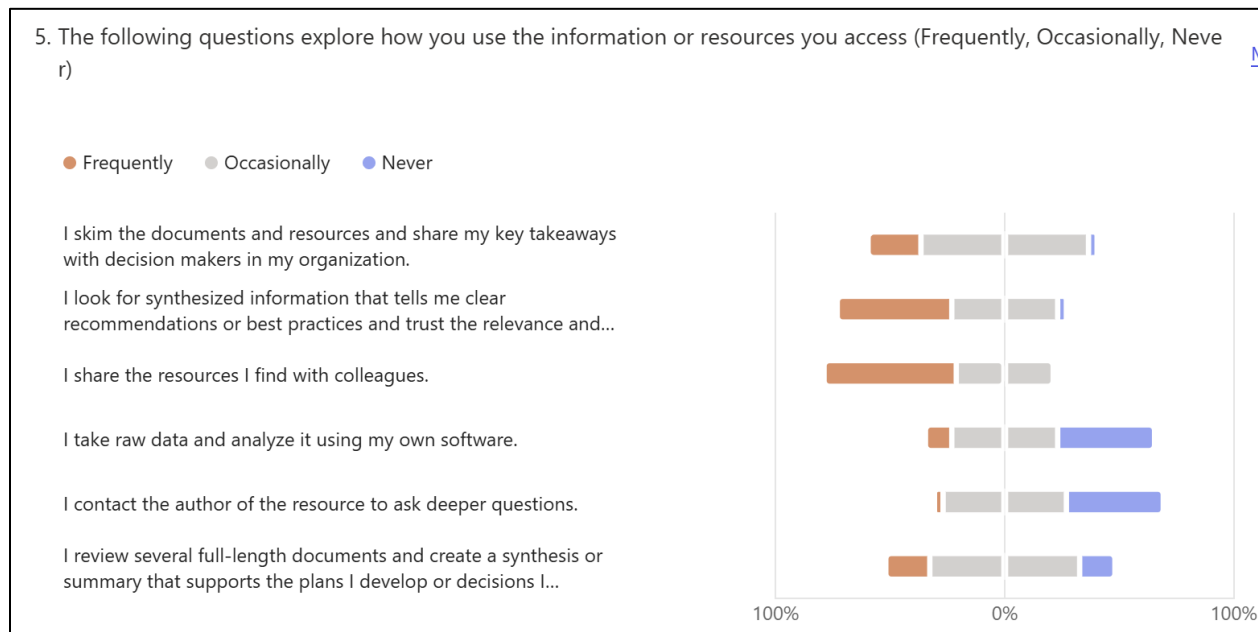


Figure 5. How respondents use the information they access.

The knowledge hub should prioritize accessible, synthesized resources such as restoration best practices, peer-reviewed articles and resource libraries. It should facilitate easy sharing of resources among peers and provide clear, credible summaries to guide best practices.

DESIRED FEATURES AND FUNCTIONALITY

The top priority functions for respondents on a knowledge hub is the ability to filter options by category, topic and organization, followed by an advanced search bar and a map of projects and/or resources (Figure 6).

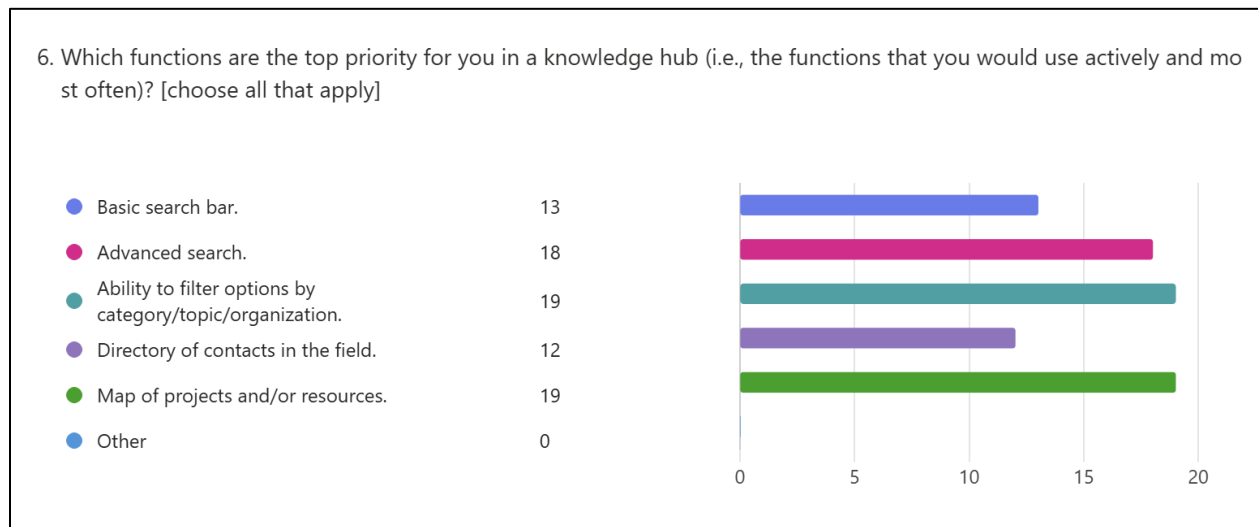


Figure 6. Top priority functions in a knowledge hub.

Respondents make the most use of advanced search bars, basic search bars and filtering options by organization, category and topic on existing websites or hubs (Figure 7). Prioritizing these functions would ensure the knowledge hub effectively supports its intended users. The ability to access a directory of contacts, discussion forums, and the ability to comment or vote on a resource were ranked the lowest in terms of use by participants.

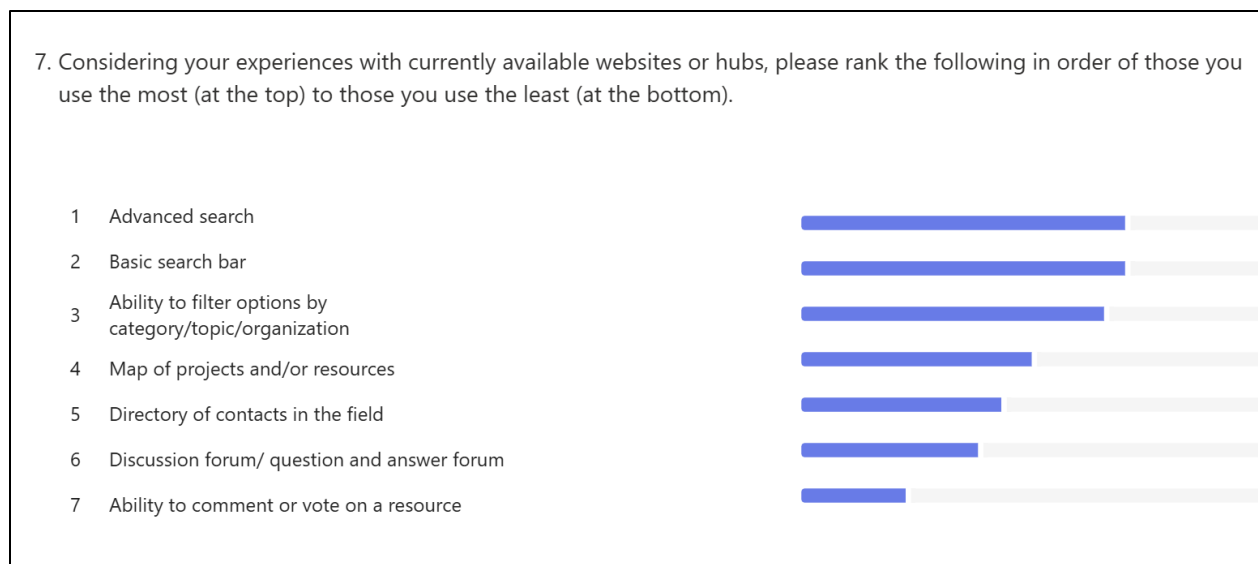


Figure 7. Functions ranked from most frequently used to least frequently used on existing websites or hubs.

When it comes to accessing resources, 75% of respondents prefer resources on a potential knowledge hub to be organized by both geography and subject matter (Figure 8).



9. When accessing resources, do you prefer them to be organized by:

Geographic location (e.g., region, province or local area)	1
Subject matter	5
Both geography and subject matter	19
Unsure	1

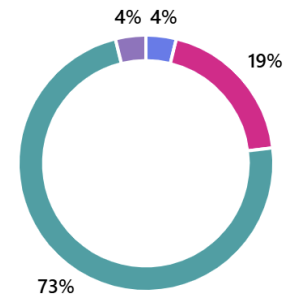


Figure 8. Resource organization preferences.

While there is a slight preference for resources focused on northern BC, responses were fairly evenly split between prioritizing resources from across all of BC and those from any country (Figure 9). This suggests that the knowledge hub could initially focus on northern BC but gradually expand to include resources from other regions to meet the needs of various users.

10. When you consider resources and information about restoration, where would you want to access resources about restoration from?

Northern B.C.	8
All of B.C.	6
All of Canada	5
Any country	7

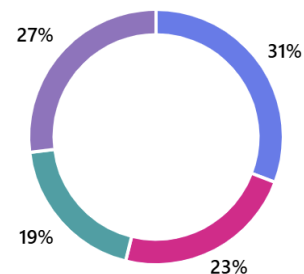


Figure 9. Geographic preferences for accessing restoration resources.

Additionally, 63% of respondents indicated that logging into the site would not be a barrier to their efficient use of the knowledge hub. This suggests that user login requirements would not significantly hinder site engagement or functionality.



Overall, respondents prioritize features such as filtering resources by category and topic and expressed a preference for resources to be organized by both geography and subject matter, with a slight emphasis on northern BC.

WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE AND PARTICIPATE

The following findings explore respondents' willingness to contribute to the restoration knowledge hub for northern BC. Sixty-three percent of respondents indicated they would be very likely to contribute resources, funding opportunities, events and contacts to the hub.

Awareness of Other Knowledge Hubs and Resource Platforms

Participants were asked if they were aware of other knowledge hubs or resource platforms that could inform the development of the restoration knowledge hub for northern BC. Respondents identified the following platforms:

- **CCLM Portal** – <https://www.cclmportal.ca>
- **Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) Homepage** – <https://ser-rrc.org>
- **SERNbc Library** – <https://sernbc.ca/library>
- **The Indigenous Climate Hub** – <https://indigenousclimatehub.ca/>
- **The Beaver Institute** – <https://www.beaverinstitute.org>
- **Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT)** – <https://brat.riverscapes.net/>
- **Working With Beavers** – https://workingwithbeavers.ca/coexist_bmp.php
- **Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP)** – <https://fwcp.ca/results/>
- **Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF)** – <https://hctf.ca/achievements/project-list/>
- **Skeena Knowledge Trust**

Many of these platforms offer a solid foundation for the restoration knowledge hub, with examples of various resource types like restoration project lists, best management practices and how to organize and present this information effectively.

Information Gaps

Participants were asked to identify the specific types of information or resources that are difficult to find and would help fill knowledge gaps in their restoration projects. Many respondents highlighted a need for more comprehensive and easily accessible resources, with key themes including **ecological restoration approaches, lessons learned from past projects** and **consolidated monitoring and evaluation data**. Key resources that respondents found challenging to access include:

- Ecological restoration approaches at a landscape level
- Post-project lessons learned and monitoring/evaluation outcomes.
- Research results and best practices for specific restoration tasks.



- Information on active and current restoration projects in northern BC.
- Best management practices and restoration techniques.
- Peer-reviewed articles on restoration-specific topics.
- Contacts and networking opportunities within the restoration community.
- Access to webinars, workshops and conferences focused on restoration.

By incorporating these types of information into a knowledge hub, there is an opportunity to address gaps and better support restoration efforts in the region.

KNOWLEDGE HUB STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Respondents were asked to share their thoughts on the potential governance structure for the knowledge hub, including the importance of formal versus flexible structures and the relationship between the hub and the broader restoration community of practice.

Fifty-eight percent of respondents indicated that a formal structure is somewhat important for the hub, with a preference for a basic structure that allows flexibility and simplicity (Figure 10).

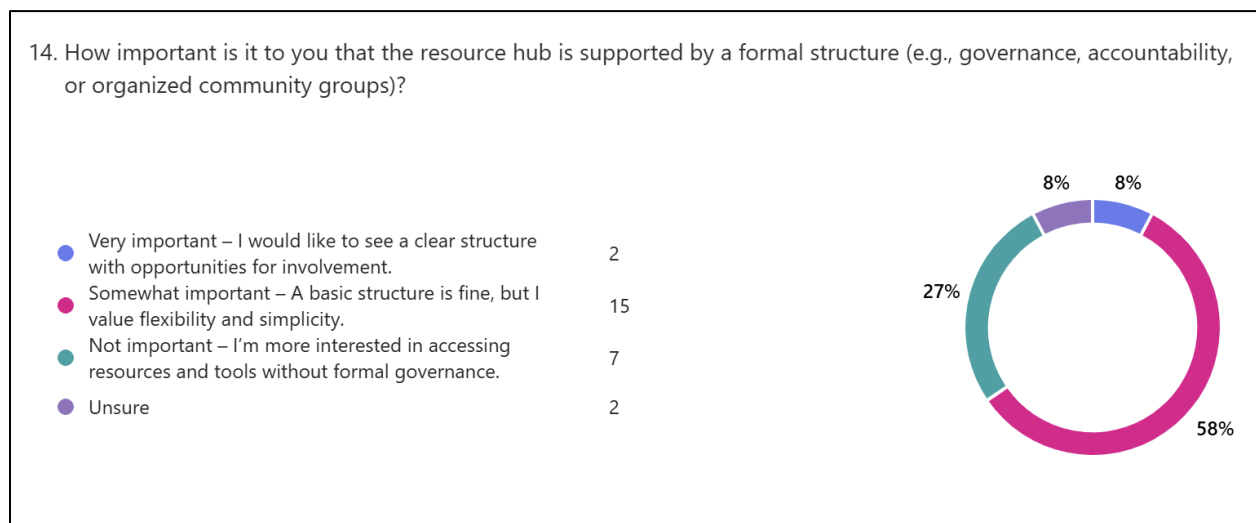


Figure 10. Knowledge hub structure insights.

Additionally, 71% of respondents felt that a shared governance structure between the knowledge hub and the broader community of practice is somewhat important, noting that while a connection between the two is beneficial, it is not considered essential (Figure 11).

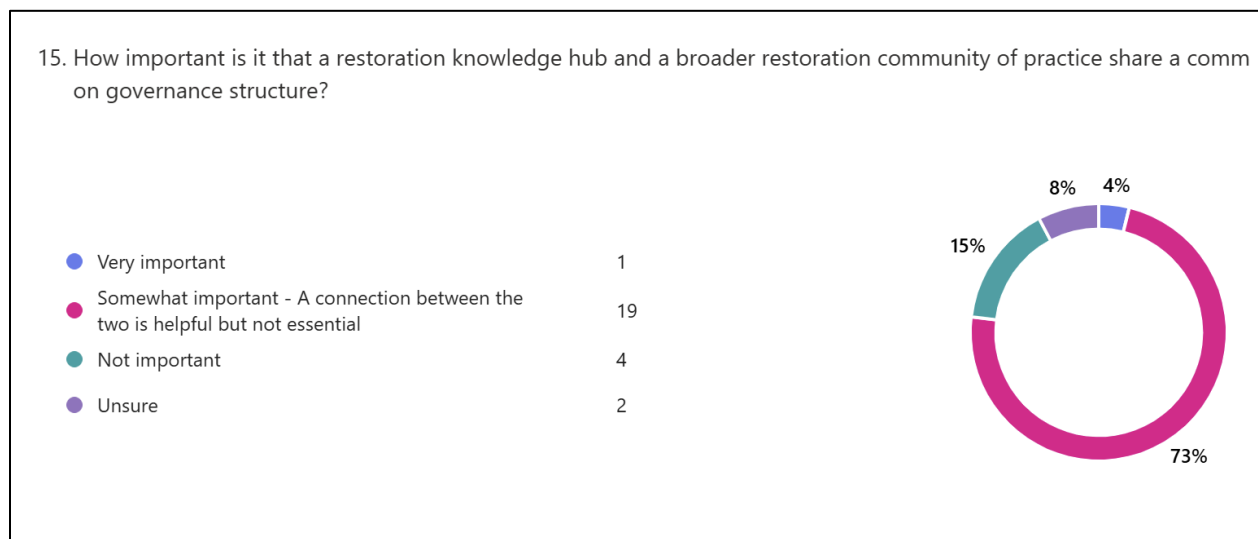


Figure 11. Insights on a common governance structure between the knowledge hub and restoration community of practice.

These insights suggest that the knowledge hub should prioritize a flexible, simple structure, while also considering a connection to the broader restoration community of practice, without the need for a highly formalized governance model.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND FEEDBACK

To conclude the survey, participants were asked an open-ended question regarding additional considerations for the development of the scope and functions of a potential restoration knowledge hub. Responses highlighted a range of key ideas and concerns that could inform the hub's development.

Additional Considerations:

- Including global restoration resources, with a focus on regions with similar climates (e.g., Scandinavia, Russia).
- Ensuring definitions for ecological restoration are clear and standardized.
- Adding a governance structure to oversee content legitimacy, avoid bias and protect confidential cultural information.
- Emphasizing collaboration, particularly between northern and southern BC, and providing a platform for current and active projects.
- Bridging the gap between different governments, facilitating collaboration and shared learnings to address restoration challenges across jurisdictions.
- Ensuring the hub is user-friendly and includes diverse tools, like a directory for restoration contractors, vetting for accuracy and frequent updates.
- Including monitoring techniques and best practices.



Bringing It All Together

Overall, the survey collected valuable insights that will support the development of a restoration knowledge hub tailored to user needs. In terms of **roles and interests**, the hub should cater to both site-level and broader landscape management needs, as roles within the Restoration COP are interconnected and varied. Most respondents primarily help others access knowledge and the primary use of a knowledge hub is to easily and efficiently access synthesized resources related to restoration. Respondents also indicated they frequently share these resources with their peers once found. The hub should prioritize resources like best practices, synthesized recommendations, and where possible peer-reviewed research. The ability to host and share insights from field tours, workshops and conferences was also identified as a core interest.

For **desired features and functionality**, the hub should prioritize an advanced search feature, and the ability to filter by category, topic and organization. A map of resources was seen as desirable, but not as important as the ability to easily search and filter resources. Resources should be organized by both geography and subject matter, with an initial focus on northern BC, gradually expanding to include other regions.

In terms of **willingness to participate**, participants expressed eagerness to contribute to the hub and suggested several existing platforms as potential models. Key information gaps include ecological restoration approaches, lessons learned from past projects and consolidated monitoring data.

For **knowledge hub structure and governance**, the hub should prioritize a flexible, simple structure while connecting to the broader Restoration COP. Overall, the participants in the survey felt a formal governance structure was somewhat important, but not necessary for the success of the hub.

These insights provide a solid foundation for building a knowledge hub that meets the practical needs of restoration practitioners while fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the survey results, there is strong support for the development of a restoration knowledge hub that meets the needs of practitioners in the field.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Leverage existing knowledge hubs and resource libraries.** The cost to build a new knowledge hub would be significant, and several options already exist that match the needs and interests identified in the survey of the restoration community of practice. By working



with an existing hub, the timelines to enable access to restoration resources will be far less, and resources can be housed more efficiently by leveraging collaborative investments of other organizations.

- **Start with northern BC as a focus.** Prioritize restoration resources from northern BC and gradually expand to include other regions as the hub evolves. This focus can help quickly establish credibility and access to resources for the existing COP while expanding the network and types of resources over time.
- **Develop a Knowledge Exchange Strategy with 1-year, 3-year and 5-year outcomes, strategies and activities.** Existing knowledge exchange platforms such as CCLM and the SER [Restoration Resource Center Restoration Directory](https://ser-rrc.org/restoration-database/?type=resource#database) could fulfill the searchable database needs. In our experience, the hub needs to be part of a broader knowledge exchange and engagement strategy to ensure users are continually reminded and aware of the considerable resources available to them. By establishing a hub as a core foundation and having a knowledge exchange strategy that also promotes the hub and its resources via webinars, briefing notes, infographics, and state-of-knowledge reports, the restoration community of practice could be best positioned to achieve its goals. Peer-to-peer and knowledge awareness events (i.e., webinars, conferences, etc.) should be the number one focus to help direct people to the resources, host conversations and mobilize knowledge of practitioners in multiple formats.

EXPLORING KNOWLEDGE HUB OPTIONS

Option 1: Society for Ecological Restoration International: Resource Database (<https://ser-rrc.org/restoration-database/?type=resource#database>)

Context

The Society for Ecological Restoration has developed a resource database to promote awareness about restoration lessons learned. They promote sharing experiences, positive outcomes, or hard lessons learned through failure. Their goal is to build awareness of experiences and new practices around the globe. There is a significant focus on developing countries, with few resources from Canada. This creates both an opportunity and a challenge.

Opportunities

- A global database of restoration resources with the potential to learn from other jurisdictions.
- Limited resources from Canada – creates a chance to grow awareness of BC-based work internationally.
- A basic but well-designed search page that includes filters and keyword searches.



- Encourages the active submission and upload of information through a user login page.
- No to low administration costs. You only need support to get the resources accessible.

Challenges

- Accessing some resources requires membership to SER and logging in. This appears to be limited to select resources with others being public. A mix of login and no-login requirements may deter users.
- Many of the search results are international in nature. This may create an overload of information and deter users if the correct filters are not used along with the keyword search.
- The restoration database is a subpage of the main SER site and is not easily accessed/found on the site. This may deter users who cannot find the database search quickly when they arrive at the site.
- Contributors appear only to be able to submit resources, and it does not appear that there is an active community that continually seeks to improve the database. This creates a limited ability to inform or adjust the search function.

Option 2: SERNbc (<https://sernbc.ca/library>)

Context

The Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC (SERNbc) has built a strong following in BC. Funded projects are housed within a resource library, including a basic keyword search. The search is quite intuitive and straightforward. It returns relevant results, and the search function is quick.

Opportunities

- Existing database of resources and familiar location for members of the Restoration COP.
- Very simple search function that returns results quickly and easily.
- It is beneficial to have resources hosted in a familiar location with a familiar organization.

Challenges

- Rudimentary search function that is simple and clear but may not scale easily once a high volume of resources is added to the site.
- Depending on the volume of resources, results may become overwhelming due to the somewhat simple format of the results returned via the search. Ideally, a categorical filter would be developed to go along with the keyword search.
- The search function is based on keyword searching, not full-text searching. This can limit the quality of search results returned and may limit the ability of the search function to prioritize the most relevant results once a large number of resources are added.

Option 3: Canadian Conservation and Land Management Knowledge Portal (www.cclmportal.ca)



Context

The CCLM Knowledge Portal was established in 2020 to foster the sharing of knowledge, best practices, and resources between land management and conservation practitioners. Initiated to bring together information about wetlands, caribou conservation, and land management, the CCLM has become a recognized name in the conservation and practitioner communities. The site includes a search function that can filter results by location, organization and topic. The CCLM has a diverse partnership base supporting its ongoing development and refinement. Various engagement strategies have been employed, and the CCLM is now a well-recognized name in many practitioners' communities in Canada. ***Please Note: It is important to acknowledge that Fuse is a foundational partner of the CCLM and currently helps administer the portal. Our team has been careful to ensure we do not bias our recommendations in any way because of this relationship. Rather, we have made recommendations based on the results of the survey and the needs of the community. We do want to acknowledge we have a deeper level of knowledge about the CCLM given this relationship.*

Opportunities

- A well-established identity and a common location that practitioners visit already.
- Opportunity for high-cost efficiency and return on investment by leveraging investments of a wide range of partner organizations.
- The CCLM partners are fundraising to create an advanced search feature to refine search capabilities further as the site grows. There is the ability to contribute to advanced search features if there is a desire to become a core partner.
- Existing training resources and an established content committee that meets regularly to onboard new people to upload resources and share ideas about content that could be uploaded and shared.
- Opportunity to promote cross-pollination by having users see restoration resources from other jurisdictions in Canada and to leverage existing social media promotion.

Challenges

- A high volume of information can lead to a high number of search results.
- It would be desirable to build a specific restoration filter into an advanced search feature to help users access restoration-specific resources.
- Less opportunity for a specific restoration 'brand' to the knowledge hub.

SUGGESTED PATH FORWARD

In our experience working with a broad range of organizations, building a new knowledge hub is an expensive and complicated undertaking. Costs to build a high-functioning site start at \$250,000 and could easily reach \$600,000. In addition, it requires considerable effort to build the brand and



awareness of a knowledge hub. Ongoing maintenance also requires a significant continuing investment to maintain the site, continually improve the site's function, and make users aware of the site. The time to build a new hub is also significant and would likely take a minimum of 12-18 months, as well as a considerable investment of time from the organizing committee to envision, design, and guide the effective development of a new site.

We believe the best opportunity available for the Restoration COP is to leverage an existing knowledge hub. Building out the SERNbc website is a viable option. However, the current SERNbc search's potential inability to handle a high volume of resources makes this a less desirable option. There are opportunities to tweak the current search function, but it was not designed to handle a high number of complex resources.

The Society for Ecological Restoration presents an intriguing option. This site would serve the Restoration COP well if the core goal is simply a place to house resources. The largest benefit is that this is a restoration-specific database. This could provide benefits to a restoration specific audience and enable practitioners to encounter restoration resources from around the world. The biggest downside is the lack of other Canadian resources and the limited promotion of the resources on the site or through social media. This option may appear more of a 'static' knowledge hub than other options. This could still serve the Restoration COP well. We anticipate leveraging this site would require more effort by the Restoration COP to actively promote the site and access to it by its members. All this being said, it is a viable option based on the scope and the goals identified by users in the survey.

The CCLM is also already established, is known by many of the respondents, and hosts the exact nature of information participants seek: recommendations, summary reports, and the ability to search and filter. This knowledge network also uses a distributed resource contributor model where all associated members can become trained on the user-friendly back end of the database and contribute to the pool of resources, events, contacts and news. The Content Committee of the CCLM is a functioning peer-to-peer knowledge-sharing space. It ensures consistency in style, other resource upload conventions, and content contribution. This Committee also serves to inspire contributors to keep thinking about new content that can be added by hearing examples of content their peers are actively sharing. The CCLM also has annual knowledge-sharing activities that can be scaled up to match the needs and availability of funding from new associate members to deliver webinars, synthesize key topics or publications and host events.

The CCLM is also considering the development of an advanced search feature that could help users further restrict the results they receive from their initial search. This advanced search feature could address the needs and interests of the survey respondents. In 2025, the Ecological Forestry Research



Initiative will be joining the CCLM and can contribute some funds to developing an Advanced Search function that could isolate restoration resources.

As noted above, we acknowledge Fuse is one of the CCLM's foundational partners and we have been careful to manage this bias in our assessment and recommendations. We also know the CCLM was designed to address the exact needs and challenges identified by the Restoration COP. The survey results reinforce many of the CCLM's design choices. By prioritizing access to resources and events and not adding additional functions that deter attention and resources (such as discussion forums), the CCLM has focused its energy on providing the most relevant user experience.

In summary, we believe that either the Society for Ecological Restoration or the CCLM could directly address the needs of the Restoration COP.

Regardless of the platform the Restoration COP chooses, we believe there is a critical need to invest in a knowledge exchange strategy to promote the resources housed on the platform. By having regular webinars, producing briefing notes or infographics, and regularly communicating about the hub via social media through partner organizations, the Restoration COP can ensure the knowledge hub is not simply a stand-alone website that users must find on their own. The biggest success realized through the CCLM is promoting and sharing high-quality resources via dedicated infographics, webinars, and social media activity. Focusing on providing high-value resources to your users gains trust and encourages them to access further resources through the core knowledge hub.

We see this as an opportunity for the restoration COP. The advisors to the restoration COP have expressed interest in hiring an administrator for the knowledge hub. If the advisors were to leverage an existing hub, this role could focus first on adding key resources to one of the existing hubs. They could then focus on developing and implementing a knowledge exchange strategy and program to continually promote the hub and improve access to its resources. We see this as an opportunity to apply financial resources to the access and synthesis of resources and knowledge, rather than significant financial resources to build a new knowledge hub. This role could either be a contracted role, or a part time role.

We are excited to see where the Restoration COP takes this decision. We are confident that a knowledge hub with an associated engagement and knowledge exchange strategy and activities can help you achieve your goals.



Appendix A: Survey Questions

Survey Questions:

- 1. How would you describe your role as it relates to restoration in northern BC?**
 - a. I help others access knowledge
 - b. I make decisions and develop site plans or prescriptions
 - c. I make landscape-scale, stewardship or other plans and decisions
 - d. I contribute to prescriptions or plans but am not a decision-maker
 - e. I implement the plans of others
 - f. I review the plans or recommendations other groups are sharing with my organization or community and provide feedback.
 - g. I perform research on restoration or support a research institution.
 - h. Other.

- 2. What is your primary area of interest or expertise within restoration?" (e.g., forest restoration, wetland, riparian, and any others).**
 - a. Forest restoration
 - b. Wetland
 - c. Riparian
 - d. Other

- 3. Where do you find information, contacts and resources about restoration research, implementation and best practices? [Choose all that apply]**
 - a. Websites with resource libraries/searchable databases.
 - b. Google Scholar or similar search engines.
 - c. Academic/ peer-reviewed journals behind a pay wall.
 - d. From peers.
 - e. From mentors.
 - f. From field tours, workshops or conferences.
 - g. Company resource libraries, archives or hard copy documents.
 - h. Data services for raw data download.
 - i. Other.



4. If you reflect on content that you would access the most often on a restoration hub, please rank the following content in order of priority:

- a. Synthesized briefs related to restoration.
- b. Peer-reviewed articles.
- c. Raw data.
- d. Directory of contacts in restoration.
- e. Calendar of events in restoration.
- f. Best practices in restoration.
- g. Webinar recordings.
- h. Links to current funding opportunities.
- i. Locations of active restoration projects.
- j. Job opportunities.

5. The following questions explore how you use the information or resources you access (Frequently, Occasionally, Never)

- a. I skim the documents and resources and share my key takeaways with decision makers in my organization.
- b. I look for synthesized information that tells me clear recommendations or best practices and trust the relevance and credibility of those summaries.
- c. I share the resources I find with colleagues.
- d. I take raw data and analyze it using my own software.
- e. I contact the author of the resource to ask deeper questions.
- f. I review several full-length documents and create a synthesis or summary that supports the plans I develop or decisions I recommend.

6. Which functions are the top priority for you in a knowledge Hub (i.e., the functions that you would use actively and most often)? [choose all that apply]

- a. Basic search bar.
- b. Advanced search.
- c. Ability to filter options by category/topic/organization.
- d. Directory of contacts in the field.
- e. Ability to comment or vote on resources uploaded to the hub.
- f. Discussion forum/ question and answer forum.
- g. Map of projects and/or resources.



7. Considering your experiences with currently available websites or hubs, please rank the following in order of those you use the most (at the top) to those you use the least (at the bottom).

- a. Basic search bar.
- b. Advanced search.
- c. Ability to filter options by category/topic/organization.
- d. Directory of contacts in the field.
- e. Ability to comment or vote on a resource.
- f. Discussion forum/ question and answer forum.
- g. Map of projects and/or resources.

8. How likely is it that you would contribute your resources, add new funding opportunities, events, contacts etc. to a restoration knowledge hub for northern B.C.?

- a. Very likely
- b. Possibly
- c. Very Unlikely
- d. Unsure

9. When accessing resources, do you prefer them to be organized by:

- a. Geographic location (e.g., region, province or local area).
- b. Subject matter.
- c. Both geography and subject matter.
- d. Unsure.

10. When you consider resources and information about restoration, where would you want to access resources about restoration from?

- a. Northern B.C.
- b. All of B.C.
- c. All of Canada.
- d. Any country.

11. When you consider websites you use the most often, or use of a restoration knowledge hub, would you consider logging into the site a barrier to your efficient use of the site?

- a. Yes.



- b. No.
- c. Unsure.

12. Are you aware of other knowledge hubs or resource platforms that could inform the development of this hub? If so, please list them below and provide links, if possible.

13. What specific types of information or resources are difficult to find that would help to fill the knowledge gaps you are encountering in your restoration project(s)?

14. How important is it to you that the resource hub is supported by a formal structure (e.g., governance, accountability, or organized community groups)?

- a. Very important – I would like to see a clear structure with opportunities for involvement.
- b. Somewhat important – A basic structure is fine, but I value flexibility and simplicity.
- c. Not important – I’m more interested in accessing resources and tools without formal governance.
- d. Unsure.

15. How important is it that a restoration knowledge hub and a broader restoration community of practice share a common governance structure?

- a. Very important
- b. Somewhat important – A connection between the two is helpful but not essential.
- c. Not important.
- d. Unsure.

16. What else do you think we should consider as we develop the scope and functions of a potential knowledge hub for restoration?