



May 2, 2015

Recommendation for Paddy Woodworth

It is my pleasure to recommend Paddy Woodworth for a visiting teaching appointment in Ecological Restoration. Paddy is the author of *Our Once and Future Planet: Restoring the World in the Climate Change Century* (University of Chicago Press, 2013), which is in my view the best general introduction to restoration ecology that has been published to date. This past March Paddy visited the University of Nevada, Reno and gave three lectures on ecological restoration:

"Ecological Restoration -- the flawed visions of the founders, the prospects for the future" This presentation looks at the visions that informed the original midwestern restoration movement -- the balance of nature, pristine ('pre-human') landscapes, prelapsarian paradises. Woodworth suggests that these visions were more or less based on faulty assumptions, but he argues that restoration nonetheless has many merits as a means of engaging with the natural world and conserving biodiversity effectively.

"'Novel Ecosystems' -- new normal or red herring?" The argument that 'novel ecosystems' are irreversibly degraded, and that we should abandon restoration efforts, embrace invasive aliens, and manage these systems to maximize ecosystem goods and services, has gained a lot of currency in recent years. But Woodworth argues that the real barrier to restoration is usually not an ecological one, but is in fact social, political and/or economic. If that is the case, 'novel ecosystems' science is in danger of handing spurious arguments to the enemies of conservation, conflating ecological theory and policy, and making difficult decisions in the field more difficult still. Woodworth offers a global tour of restoration projects he visited while researching for the book, each of which illustrates particular challenges and responses.

"If nature is priceless, why should we account for it?" This presentation reviews the arguments for -- and against -- putting economic values on natural capital and ecosystem services, and the implications of building these valuations into restoration projects. This presentation is based not only on the book, but also on his work as a founder member of the Irish Natural Capital Committee, which works to assist government and business to incorporate natural capital valuation into national and corporate accounting systems -- see <http://www.naturalcapitalireland.com>.

As a member of the faculty committee that helped to bring Paddy to campus, I attended two of his lectures (I had a schedule conflict during the third). Having been very

impressed with *Our Once and Future Planet*, I was keenly interested to meet its author. And I was not disappointed. Paddy is immensely informed on ecological restoration and possesses uncommonly good skills in conveying the complexity of the science of ecological restoration to broader audiences. He is a gifted speaker and teacher. His talks are well conceived and organized, helpfully illustrated with slides, and spiced up with anecdotes. He also handled the lively question & answer session masterfully. I think that most people who attended wished that we had another half hour to continue talking, and many lingered to speak with him after the talk. I gave my freshmen students extra credit to attend his lecture, and they found it engaging and educational—no small feat.

I also had the opportunity to attend a reception and dinner in honor of Paddy. He is a charming personality, very social, comfortable speaking with a wide variety of people. He is a wonderful teacher and colleague, and I recommend him with enthusiasm for a visiting teaching position. In short, he has become a recognized expert in ecological restoration, and he is skilled at teaching this topic to university students and the general public.

Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Glotfelty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

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