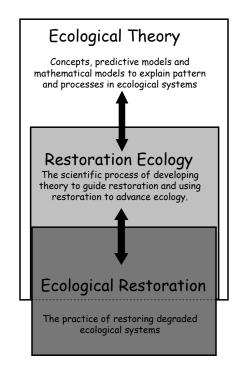


Figure 1. Ecological systems are highly dynamic entities. Thus, all attributes of natural systems including levels of ecosystem processes (dark grey spheres) as will vary over time and space within a natural window of variability (dashed oval line). Only when the system attribute moves outside that natural window of variability (mottled grey spheres) should restoration be attempted. Once 'restored', the system is unlikely to be exactly where it was pre-disturbance. Although this figure is drawn in three dimensions, the true assessment of both reference and degraded conditions is likely to be multivariate. Illustration motivated by Walker and Boyer (1993).



## Benefits of linkages

- Offers opportunities to study ecosystem elements in a manipulative context
- Offers opportunities to test and expand theories that are central to ecology
- Offers opportunity for ecologists to contribute directly to vital restoration efforts worldwide
- Provides an intellectual framework for restoration
- Clarifies multiple interactions that may operate in even a simple restoration project
- Improves the quality & effectiveness of restoration efforts