

Fact Sheets Providing Guidance for Quality Assurance in Ecological Restoration Project Monitoring

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Ecological restoration in all regions requires collecting reliable data for determining the appropriateness of restoration techniques, evaluating project method effectiveness against restoration objectives, and building the necessary evidence to support management decisions. Often these data are collected as observations or estimates based on best professional judgment. Unlike accredited laboratory settings where rigorous quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) procedures have been in place for decades, practitioners for ecological restoration projects do not have comprehensive guidance on how to ensure the reliability of data. To address this need, U.S. EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) with the assistance of representatives from several federal agencies prepared a guidance document entitled [Application of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Principles to Ecological Restoration Project Monitoring](#) (EPA-905-K19-001, April 2019). A series of short fact sheets have been developed to cover each chapter of the document to acquaint restoration practitioners with the key concepts presented in greater detail in the guidance document. Topics addressed by this fact sheet series include a description of the benefits and principles of QA/QC (Chapters 1 & 2); defining the level of data quality to meet the intended data uses (Chapter 3); preparing for field data collection (Chapter 4); defining and establishing QC field checks (Chapter 5); data review (Chapter 6); and data quality assessment (Chapter 7). These factsheets are a convenient resource for practitioners who are preparing quality assurance project plans (QAPPs), need to disseminate information, or provide training to collaborators and contractors on a particular QA topic. This effort is funded under an EPA contract in support of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

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