

Greetings!

Many professionals use Journal Review Groups to keep up with the constantly evolving scientific literature that forms the basis of their field. In our field, this is even more important as money is always tight for conferences. Further, time is always short for each of us as individuals to review, much less synthesize, the findings of current research in our field. With this in mind, the City of Austin's Water Quality Protection Lands Program (WQPL) will be starting a Journal Review Group and you are invited to join us.

The goal is to provide a professional opportunity to stay up to date on the science and issues associated with ecological restoration. A secondary goal is to provide greater connection between managers, practitioners and researchers who work with ecological restoration, land management or natural resources in general. As you might guess, many of the studies we review will be relevant to the WQPL, but we will certainly discuss broader articles as well. We have some outstanding restoration professionals in this area, and it will be great to have a venue to come together to advance our own individual knowledge as well as share our perspectives with colleagues.

Space and time will likely limit us to 20 to 25 participants, but not everyone will be able (or expected) to join us each month. Please email me directly if you would like to be added to this group and I will email you with the time, date and the article to be reviewed for the first meeting. Also you will then be on the list to receive notifications about future journal review meetings.

The first meeting will be held at our offices at Reicher Ranch. We may be able to use other locations in the future if they are available. I hope you are able to join us and share in this endeavor!

Sincerely,

Kevin Thuesen, Ph.D.

Environmental Conservation Program Manager, WQPL

As currently envisioned, here is the proposed format and expectations. These are subject to change and we welcome input to further refine. We may use feedback from our first meeting to refine, improve and update.

Format:

1-2 papers per meeting

1 meeting per month

1 ½ - 2 hours over lunch, bring your lunch OR at the end of day in location to facilitate networking

Papers should be recently published in a peer reviewed journal (how recent is still TBD)

New papers suggested from group

Different moderator/lead for each paper (whomever suggested?)

Moderator writes up take away points from discussion for paper

Take away points emailed out and added to ongoing list of papers reviewed.

Standards Expectations for Participants:

Everyone must read the papers

Everyone should be prepared to discuss their perspective

Everyone should listen and let each person be heard, no talking over others

Discussion should be about merits or findings of individual articles to understand results as well as strengths and weaknesses and how it applies to our work

Goal is for everyone to stay more up to date on current research in land management, karst, and ecological restoration (also would include prescribed fire, invasive species, prescribed grazing, and related), but also an opportunity to learn more about other areas such as groundwater hydrology, water quality, wildlife, and other closely related topics to the land management typically associated with the WQPL or other Central Texas lands.