

# Short Course

<b>Name of Short Course:</b>	<b>Natural Processes for the Restoration of Drastically Disturbed Sites</b>
<b>Date:</b>	Sunday, September 18, 2011
<b>Time:</b>	8:30 am – 5:00 pm (suggested time but can change pending your agenda)
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise / Saddleback Room</b>
<b># of participants:</b>	Up to 50
<b>Registration Fee:</b>	\$350
<b>Facilitated by:</b>	<i>Mr. David Polster</i>
<b>Language:</b>	English

**Short Course Description:**

Natural processes have been “reclaiming” natural disturbances since the beginnings of time. This one day workshop will explore how these natural processes can be applied to the reclamation of sites that humans have disturbed. It is clear that traditional reclamation programs are failing to generate the ecological goods and services that were lost during the disturbance of the site. Providing erosion control is a key element in the development of effective restoration programs. We will look at the processes of erosion and how natural systems solve erosion problems. Similarly, many disturbed sites lack nutrients for plant growth or the capacity to cycle the nutrients that are available. We will explore the natural processes that provide nutrients and nutrient cycling capacity to ecosystems and how these can be re-established on disturbed sites. In many cases the systems and processes that naturally reclaim disturbed sites can be established on anthropogenic disturbances easily and at a lower cost than using traditional reclamation techniques

**Short Course Objectives:**

To provide participants with an effective strategy for restoration of drastically disturbed sites.

**Target audience: (i.e. who should attend)**

Those engaged in restoration planning and implementation for drastically disturbed sites including large mines, upstream oil and gas sites, transportation corridors and other significant **disturbances**.

**About the facilitators: (Instructor bios)**

The workshop will be lead by David Polster. Mr. Polster has been involved in the reclamation of severely disturbed sites for over 30 years. He is president of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association (3<sup>rd</sup> term) and is on the board of the BC Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration and the BC Invasive Plant Council. Dave is well known for his work in the use of soil bioengineering treatments to solve difficult reclamation problems. He recently instructed a post-graduate certification program in designing for natural processes at the University of Victoria.

# Short Course

Agenda		
Time	Topic*	Instructor
08:30 – 09:00	Introductions	D. Polster
09:00 – 09:30	Traditional reclamation	D. Polster
09:30 – 10:15	Introduction to Ecosystem processes	D. Polster
10:15 – 10:30	Break	
10:30 – 11:30	Successional reclamation	D. Polster
11:30 – 12:00	The role of nitrogen fixing pioneers	D. Polster
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 – 15:00	Erosion processes and solutions	D. Polster
15:00 – 15:15	Break	
15:15 – 16:00	Restoration of difficult sites	D. Polster
16:00 – 17:00	Implementation, monitoring and questions	D. Polster
* Case histories illustrating the various subject areas are provided throughout the course		

**Equipment required:** None

**Materials provided: (i.e. copies of ppt presentation, course binder)**  
 Course manual provided