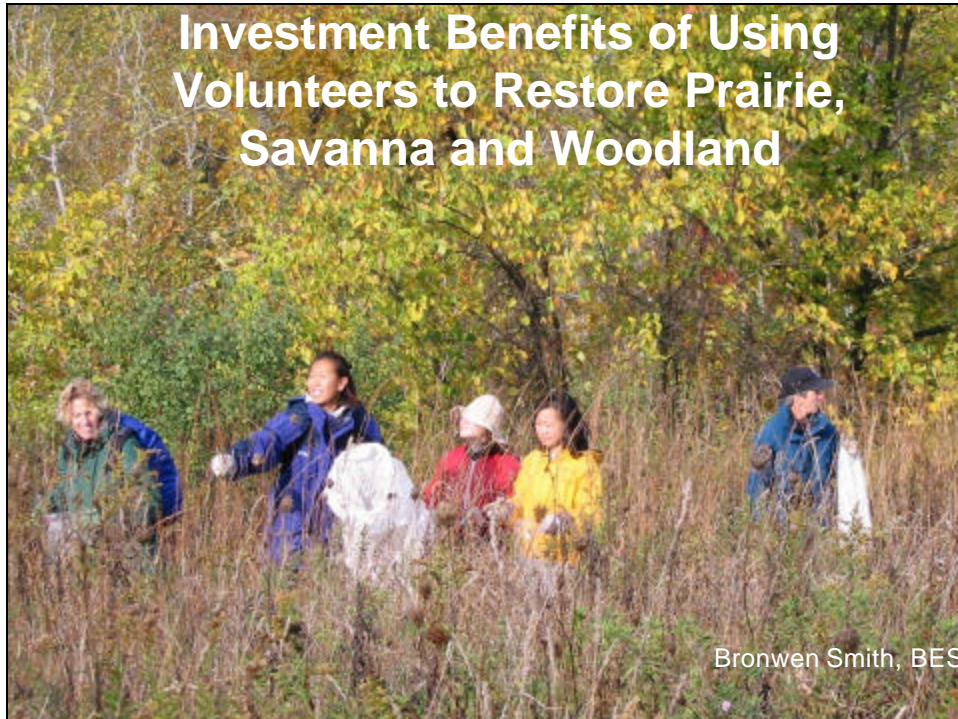


Investment Benefits of Using Volunteers to Restore Prairie, Savanna and Woodland



Bronwen Smith, BES

Volunteer for Nature

is a partnership between



&



funded by



2



Objectives

To Convey:

- What can be accomplished in a work day
- Ideas for volunteer-appropriate work
- Investment benefits of using volunteers
- Suggestions for effectively using volunteers to restore tallgrass communities

Conservation Volunteering Provides an opportunity to educate

Tell me, I'll forget;
Show Me, I may
remember;
Involve me and I'll
understand.



5

NCC's Use of Volunteers on Prairie and Savanna Habitats



Opening Up the Woodland Canopy



7



Creating a
Burn Line

8

Planting Prairie Seeds or Plugs



9

Seed Collection



10



Invasive Removal

11

Snake Nesting Pile



12

Ecological Monitoring



13

Volunteers provide opportunities:

- Community outreach
- Providing a funding 'match'
- Developing perspective on a project
- Cultivating a broad base of supporters
- Making light of heavy work

14

Preparing for Volunteer Involvement

- Literature suggests that for every \$1.57 expended, volunteers return between \$2.05 and \$21.24 (USD)
- To maximize your return, it is important to plan strategically to prepare for an event

15

Strategy: Recognize Unique Challenges

- Very little point of reference
- Need to protect is not transparent
- The state of these imperiled ecosystems can give rise to a feeling of hopelessness
- Restoration procedures challenge our ingrained notions of environmental work

16

Strategy: Motivate Volunteers

- Aspire to a vision, but set specific goals



Strategy: Practice Due Diligence

- Take reasonable precautions to prevent injuries or accidents
- Assess risk with special regard to:
 - Tool choice and use; tool training
 - Ratio of volunteers to leaders
 - Poison ivy, ticks
 - Herbicide use
 - Prescribed burn

Strategy: Simplify, Simplify!

- Train in 'test plots'
- Delineate areas where teams will work
- Don't overwhelm volunteers with having to identify too many species

19

Strategy: Encourage Teamwork



