

Table 4.

Sample 1-5 star recovery scale interpreted in the context of the six key ecosystem attributes used to measure progress along a trajectory of recovery. This 5-star scale represents a gradient from very low to very high similarity to the reference model. As a generic framework, users must develop indicators and monitoring metrics specific to the ecosystem and sub-attributes they identify.

ATTRIBUTE	★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
Absence of threats	Further deterioration discontinued, and site has tenure and management secured.	Threats from adjacent areas beginning to be managed or mitigated.	All adjacent threats managed or mitigated to a low extent.	All adjacent threats managed or mitigated to an intermediate extent.	All threats managed or mitigated to high extent.
Physical conditions	Gross physical and chemical problems remediated (e.g., excess nitrogen, altered pH, high salinity, contamination or other damage to soil or water).	Substrate chemical and physical properties on track	Substrate stabilized within natural range and supporting growth of characteristic native biota.	Substrate securely maintaining conditions suitable for ongoing growth and recruitment of characteristic native biota.	Substrate exhibiting physical and chemical characteristics highly similar to that of the reference ecosystem with evidence they can indefinitely sustain species and processes.
Species composition	Some colonizing native species present (e.g., ~2% of species in the reference ecosystem). Moderate onsite threat from nonnative invasive or undesirable species. Regeneration niches available.	A small subset of characteristic native species establishing (e.g., ~10% of reference). Low to moderate onsite threat from nonnative invasive or undesirable species.	A subset of key native species (e.g., ~25% of reference) establishing over substantial proportions of the site. Very low onsite threat from nonnative invasive or undesirable species.	Substantial diversity of characteristic native biota (e.g., ~60% of reference) present across the site and representing a wide diversity of species groups. Very low onsite threat from nonnative invasive or undesirable species.	High diversity of characteristic native species present (e.g., >80% of reference), with high similarity to the reference ecosystem; improved potential for colonization of more native species over time. No known onsite threat from undesirable species.

Table 4. (continued)

Sample 1-5 star recovery scale interpreted in the context of the six key ecosystem attributes used to measure progress along a trajectory of recovery. This 5-star scale represents a gradient from very low to very high similarity to the reference model. As a generic framework, users must develop indicators and monitoring metrics specific to the ecosystem and sub-attributes they identify.

ATTRIBUTE	★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
Structural diversity	One or fewer biological strata present and no spatial patterning or community trophic complexity relative to reference ecosystem.	More strata present but low spatial patterning and trophic complexity, relative to reference ecosystem.	Most strata present and some spatial patterning and trophic complexity relative to reference site.	All strata present. Spatial patterning evident and substantial trophic complexity developing relative to the reference ecosystem.	All strata present and spatial patterning and trophic complexity high. Further complexity and spatial patterning able to self-organize to highly resemble reference ecosystem.
Ecosystem function	Substrates and hydrology are at a foundational stage only, capable of future development of functions similar to the reference.	Substrates and hydrology show increased potential for a wider range of functions including nutrient cycling, and provision of habitats and resources for other species.	Evidence of functions commencing (e.g., nutrient cycling, water filtration, and provision of habitat and resources for a range of species).	Substantial evidence of key functions and processes commencing including reproduction, dispersal, and recruitment of native species.	Considerable evidence of functions and processes on a secure trajectory towards that of the reference and evidence of ecosystem resilience, tested by reinstatement of appropriate disturbance regimes.
External exchanges	Potential for exchanges (e.g., of species, genes, water, fire) with surrounding landscape or aquatic environment identified.	Connectivity for enhanced positive (and minimized negative) exchanges arranged through cooperation with stakeholders. Linkages being reinstated.	Positive exchanges between site and external environment becoming evident (e.g., more species, gene flows, etc.).	High level of positive exchanges with other native ecosystems established; control of undesirable species and disturbances.	Evidence that external exchanges are highly similar to reference, and long-term integrated management arrangements with broader landscape in place and operative.