

NOTE ABOUT THE RESTORATION / RECLAMATION / REHABILITATION CONCEPTS

- **Restoration:** (FR: restauration)
 - Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. (SER International Primer on Ecological Restoration¹)
 - Key to restoration is making clear the goal. If the goal (ultimately) is not to restore the ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed, the use of the term restoration should be avoided.
 - Goal of the peat industry when doing restoration: to return a functional ecosystem that can accumulate peat again.
- **Rehabilitation:** (FR: réaménagement, réhabilitation)
 - The reparation of ecosystem processes, productivity and services of the former peatland, but does not imply the re-establishment of the pre-existing biotic integrity in terms of species composition and community structure.
 - Rehabilitation shares with restoration a fundamental focus on historical or pre-existing ecosystems as models or references, but the two activities differ in their goals and strategies.
- **Reclamation:** (FR: réhabilitation, réaménagement, remise en état, mise en valeur)
 - The term reclamation has an even broader application than rehabilitation. The main objectives of reclamation include the stabilization of the terrain, assurance of public safety, aesthetic improvement, and usually a return of the land to what, within the regional context, is considered to be a useful purpose. Revegetation, which is normally a component of land reclamation, may entail the establishment of only one or few species.
 - Reclamation projects that are more ecologically based can qualify as rehabilitation or even restoration.
 - In Alberta: to return the land to an equivalent land capability. “Equivalent land capability” means that the ability of the land to support various land uses after conservation and reclamation is similar to the ability that existed prior to an activity being conducted on the land, but that the individual land uses will not necessarily be identical (Conservation and Reclamation Regulation, 169/2014).

¹http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.ser.org/resource/resmgr/custompages/publications/SER_Primer/ser_primer.pdf