

Conservation, Restoration, National Parks and Indigenous People: What is culturally and ecologically relevant?

Gongga (7556 m)



Yangjuan (2500 m)



Example from Jiuzhaigou National Park, Sichuan Province, China
Tom Hinckley & Julie Combs

Science, Policy and Management: Some lessons in Park Management

- How ideas develop
 - Importance of observation
 - Importance of repetition
 - Importance of other people and other disciplines
- Acknowledging other cultures and disciplines
- Scientific information and management

2001 Trip to China



- So incredibly different (language, food, scenery, culture)



Failed Observations



Failed observation - 2



Trips 2002, 2005, 2006

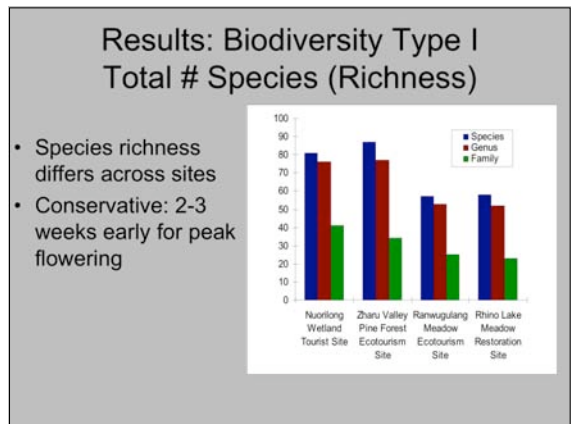
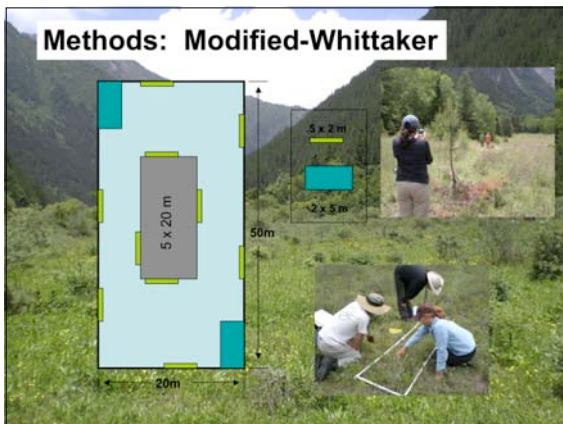
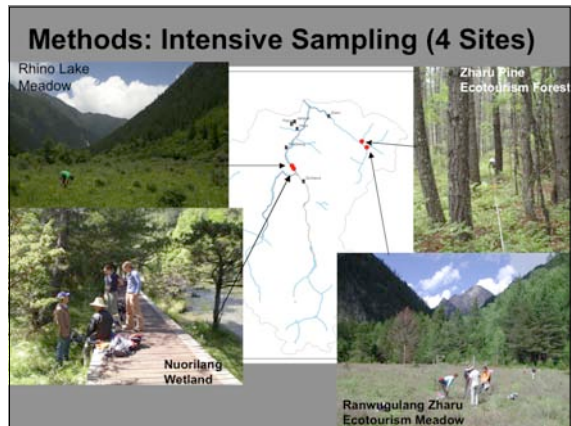
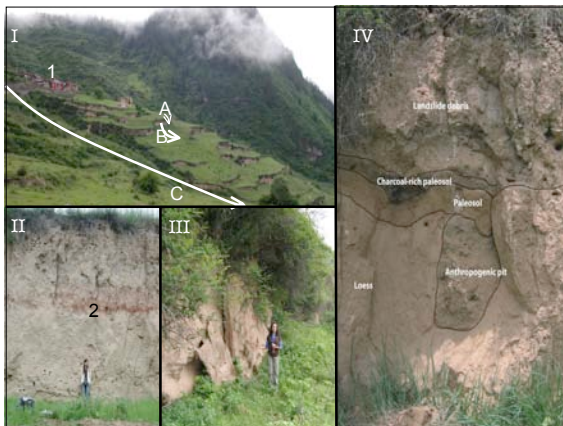


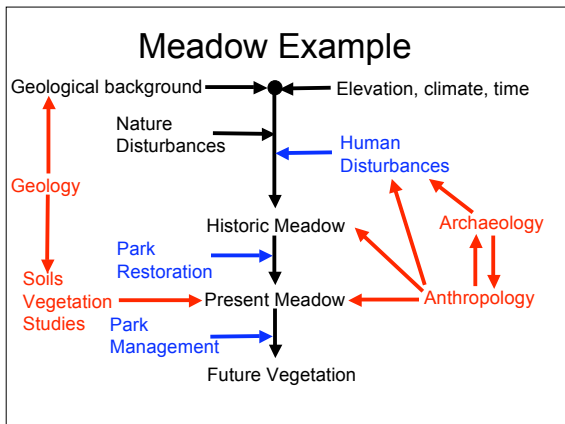
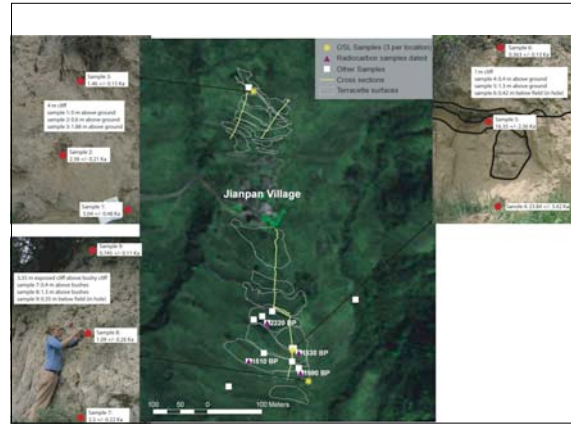
Key Observations

- Park history (1979 - 2006)
- Indigenous villages
 - Age
 - ~1999 no agriculture or animal husbandry
 - Abandonment
 - Geology, hydrology, and ecology
- Extensive restoration of meadows and pastures
- What were current and historical impacts of humans?

Jiuzhaigou National Park Joint Partnership with Sichuan University - University of Washington Final Reports 2007

Students and faculty from Sichuan University & University of Washington
&
JNP Science Department Staff





Implications for the future - 1

Park Management → Future Vegetation

- Meadows currently contain unique combinations of species and support specific insect, bird and animal species
- Loss of meadows means loss of specific species associated with meadows
- Loss of meadows means loss of culturally relevant landscapes
- Value of working in an interdisciplinary team, local expertise, etc.