

## Don't Forget the Opportunities

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With the ever increasing scarcity of public funds, and the increasing scrutiny from budget administrators, grantors, and partners, the emphasis to focus restoration efforts on “priorities” is now built into most institutional funding procedures. This response is to be expected as a prudent and accountable response to achieve the most meaningful outcomes. However, a rigid adherence to such a policy to maximize individual outcomes can undermine overall landscape restoration success and outcomes due to lost opportunities to capitalize on passing situations that don't happen to be priorities. Instead a balanced approach that pursues priorities, yet seizes opportunities, is recommended. Within a land management agency, this balanced approach can also serve to expand the restoration capacity and efficiencies of the unit by creating a culture where restoration needs and opportunities are queried, pursued, and achieved by all program leaders as part of integrated standard operating procedures. Our experience has perhaps served to validate this approach.