

# Ecological Applications Submission Types

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## Summary of Length Limits by Submission Type

Submission Type	Manuscript length limit*	Abstract needed?	Abstract length (words)	Key words required?	Additional requirements
Article	60	Yes	350	Yes	N/A
Comment	16	No	N/A	No	N/A
Commentary	16	No	N/A	No	By invitation only
Communication	20	Yes	200	Yes	N/A
Introduction	5	No	N/A	No	By invitation only
Review	60	Yes	350	Yes	By invitation only
Reply	16	No	N/A	No	By invitation only

\*See our complete [manuscript preparation guidelines \(PDF\)](#) for instructions on calculating manuscript length. The page count includes all pages (title page, body, References section, figures, figure captions, tables, and table captions) and does not include supporting information.

## Submission Types

### Article

Articles describing significant original research comprise the core of the journal. This section is intended for original research articles, with papers that generally consist of an Introduction, Methods/Materials, Results, and Discussion, and often contain tables and figures.

### Communication

Communications are shorter papers of immediate impact in fast-moving scientific debate or urgent practical application. To assure the contents are timely and to encourage submission of fast-breaking material, these submissions will be fast-tracked through the editorial, peer review, and publication processes to facilitate rapid release. Our target is a prompt editorial decision with initial online release of the Accepted Article within a week of receipt of the author's final version.

As an added incentive for authors to cast their submissions in this concise format, Communications are made freely available to readers (i.e., one need not be a subscriber or have institutional access to view full text online), but note the author is still responsible for the page charge or open-access publication fees.

### Additional requirements for Communications

Communications can be no more than 20 manuscript pages (following our complete [manuscript preparation guidelines \(PDF\)](#)). The cover letter must explain why the paper warrants this manuscript type. Papers deemed unsuitable for Communications may be considered for publication as Articles.

### Comment

A Comment points out errors of fact or interpretation in an article that was previously published in *Ecological Applications*. Comments will be considered on papers in Early View (the typeset version of record) or within a published issue. Comments on a "preprint" or Accepted Article (the unedited draft prior to editing and typesetting) are not permitted; submission should only be made after release of the version of record.

See our [guidelines for Comments \(PDF\)](#) for more information.

## Reply

A Reply is submitted after invitation from the journal's editorial staff in response to a Comment by the author of the manuscript that was commented upon. In order to submit a Reply, this author must have previously submitted a signed review of the Comment.

See our [guidelines for Replies \(PDF\)](#) for more information.

## Special Features and Forums

Special Features and Forums are groups of papers intended to address various aspects of a theme that is likely to be of broad interest to ecologists. Ideally, the group of papers should teach a large audience about an unfamiliar topic or an area in which there has been considerable recent progress, or it should cause the audience to reexamine an issue that is not as settled as most have presumed. Proposals for Special Features and Forums should be addressed to the [Editor-in-Chief](#).

There is essentially no limit to the topics for Special Features and Forums, so long as they fit within the broader scope and subject matter guidelines for Ecological Applications. The key guideline is that the papers address aspects of a topic or theme and that this topic or theme is likely to be of broad interest to ecologists.

Special Feature and Forum submissions must be approved prior to manuscript submission. In ScholarOne, these manuscripts are submitted as any of the standard paper types (See "Submission Types" earlier in this document) or one of the Special Feature-specific types below. When submitting, the appropriate Special Feature or Forum must be selected in the designated field. For more information, see our complete [overview of Special Features and Forums \(PDF\)](#).

## Introduction

This is a specific paper type to be included only within invited Special Features and Forums, and it should be submitted by invitation only.

## Commentary

This is a specific paper type to be included only within invited Special Features and Forums, and it should be submitted by invitation only.

Commentaries represent personal responses to a paper (or papers) or to a concept considered to be of very broad interest and significance within the field of applied ecology.

## Review

This is a specific paper type to be included only within invited Special Features and Forums, and it should be submitted by invitation only.

Reviews should be comprehensive and synthetic papers that establish new benchmarks in the field, define directions for future research, contribute to fundamental understanding of ecological principles, and whenever possible, derive principles for ecological management in its broadest sense (including, but not limited to, conservation, mitigation, restoration, and pro-active protection of the environment). Reviews should be more than simple compilations of facts and overviews of the literature. Rather than focusing only on the recent literature and highlighting trendy topics, Reviews should reflect the development of a topic and encompass relevant natural history, observational and experimental data, analyses, models, theory, and application.