genera (for example, maple and birch) are wind-dispersed, many more corridors and patches would need to be created to facilitate wider dispersal of their seed and pollen. Thus, different taxa will "perceive" a landscape differently.

Because habitat corridors (as opposed to roads or trails as corridors) could transmit disease or fire and increase predation risk (*2*), corridors cannot be judged generically (*3*). Furthermore, designers of a corridor should carefully consider the potential implications of edge-effects and invasion by native pest (for example, raccoons) or exotic plant or animal species (*4*). For these reasons, ecologists are right to study and debate the positive and negative consequences of corridors. Unfortunately, study is lagging behind debate.

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2. D. Simberloff and J. Cox, *Conserv. Biol.* **1**, 63 (1987).
3. D. Simberloff, J. A. Farr, J. Cox, D. W. Mehlman, *ibid.* **6**, 493 (1992).
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Fusion Progress

David Montgomery's letter (8 Sept., p. 1328) discounts the efforts of thousands of researchers, not just in the United States but around the world, who have taken fusion experiments from table-top devices in the 1950s and 1960s to devices that now produce megawatts of fusion energy in the laboratory. The progress in fusion energy research, *and in plasma physics*, has been outstanding by any measure. The fact that the fusion program has had a mission, a sense of purpose beyond the purely academic, has not limited the scope of science accomplished in the process. Fusion theory, experiment, diagnostics, computation, and engineering are all pushing the state-of-the-art. The mission has, however, motivated many people to continue to work on fusion even when funding prospects were uncertain.

Montgomery comments specifically on the lack of diagnostics for high temperature (tokamak) plasmas. In fact, we have made tremendous strides: Beam-emission spectroscopy, multichannel motional Stark-effect polarimetry, multichannel-multipulse Thompson scattering, and heavy-ion beam probes are examples of the diagnostics that are being used to reveal the inner workings of the fusion plasma devices.

Plasma physics has been seen as a mature science since 1986, when the National Research Council's Plasmas and Fluids Subpanel report, *Physics Through the 1990s* (*1*), stated that "plasma physics and fluid physics are scientifically and intellectually well developed, and both areas are broad subdisciplines of physics."

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Letters to the Editor

Letters may be submitted by e-mail (at science_letters@aaas.org), fax (202-289-7562), or regular mail (*Science*, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA). Letters are not routinely acknowledged. Full addresses, signatures, and daytime phone numbers should be included. Letters should be brief (300 words or less) and may be edited for reasons of clarity or space. Letter writers are not consulted before publication.