



Central Rockies SER Meeting Summary

Thursday, March 11rd, 2014, 2:00pm ~ 3:00pm

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Attendance: 12

Fort Collins: Brett Wolk, Mark Paschke, Andrea Borkenhagen.

Calling in: Tim Hoelzle, Ann Frazier, Susan Sherrod, Aida Farag, Megan Bowes, Brock Bowles, Lynn Morales, Trisha McIlvanna, and April Andujar.

President Report:

- Brett presented in Randy's absence.
- Chapter Leaders Quarterly Call:
 - Guidelines for Chapters
 - SER National is developing chapter guidelines. The guidelines will include materials on how to run a chapter and how to transition through committees.
 - International Restoration Ecologist Certification
 - The idea is being further developed.
 - Most chapters support the certification but want more details.
 - Our chapter in general does not support the certification as proposed primarily due to the difficulty in providing instructive short courses for such a broad topic as restoration ecology that are sufficient for a certification. We prefer the idea of supporting training schools and a continuing education model.
 - SER is proposing that a separate company or branch would be established to train, certify and advice on legal issues.
 - Our regional rep, Aida Farag, shared that Steve Windhinger (sp?), the regional rep for the Rocky Mountain Great Plains, is on the certification development committee.

Treasurer Report


- Our current balance is \$11,603.06 since our last meeting on January 23rd.
- \$1,225.50 was spent on catering for the pub talks in Fort Collins at New Belgium Brewery and Boulder at the Lazy Dog
- \$336 was generated in revenue from T-Shirt sales and chapter quarterly dues,
- Pursuing 501c3 status
 - Treasurer Tim Hoelzle has the paper work together to apply for 501c3 status with the IRS as a tax exempt non-profit organization.
 - Tim got in contact with the Midwest Great Lakes Chapter through the SER Google group to clarify a few sections of the application.

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- Once clarified, Tim will submit the application and has been informed that the turnaround is about 1 month.

Secretary Report

- After 2 years as secretary Brett is moving on to the role of Vice President/President Elect. This meeting, Andrea Borkenhagen began her new role on the board as secretary and is adjusting to the tasks and responsibilities following a transition meeting with Brett.
- Membership increased to just over 80 members, up five people this month.
- Emails from the monthly membership list have been updated on the listserv and a welcome to the chapter message has been sent.



**Ecology and Hydrology of Fires and Floods:
Applied Science in a Changing Landscape**

SER CENTRAL ROCKIES SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Come join the Central Rockies Chapter of the Society of Ecological Restoration for a **free pub talk** on the ecology and hydrology of fires and flood, presented by **Steven Yochum & Jonas Feinstein** of the USDA NRCS. Event runs from **7:00 – 9:30 pm** on **January 30, 2014** at **New Belgium Brewery** (500 Linden St, Fort Collins, CO 80524).
Food, Beer, & Ecological Restoration

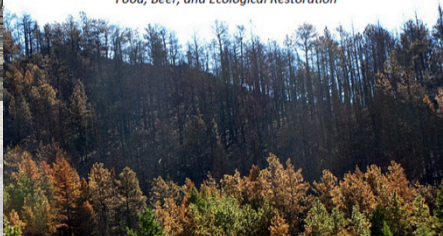
**Wildfire in the Colorado Front Range:
Using tree rings to reconstruct fire history & lessons learned
from the Fourmile Canyon Fire**

Join the Central Rockies Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration for a pub talk and discussion

Wednesday March 5, 6:30pm-9:30pm
The Lazy Dog Tavern (1346 Pearl St, Boulder, CO 80302).

Meredith Gartner from CU Boulder will discuss her research on the history of wildfire in the Colorado Front Range, a recent example of a destructive fire in the wildland-urban interface, and using tree-rings to learn about fire history. Hors d'oeuvres provided, cash bar available.

Food, Beer, and Ecological Restoration



Outreach Committee Report

- Since our last meeting we have had a pub talk at New Belgium in Fort Collins and at the Lazy Dog in Boulder.
- Ecology and Hydrology of Fires and Floods: Applied Science in a Changing Landscape. Fort Collins, New Belgium Brewery, January 30th, 2014.
 - Despite cold temps and heavy snow, over a hundred twenty five people still managed to make it to New Belgium Brewery in Fort Collins on January 30th for the first pub talk of 2014 hosted by the Central Rockies chapter of the Society of Ecological Restoration (CeRSER). A diverse crowd of professionals, academics, students and enthusiasts braved the elements for beer, food and informative talks. Once everyone got a chance to grab a beer from the tap room and sample some of the tasty appetizers, Jonas Feinstein and Steven Yochum with the Natural Resources Conservation Services talked about the role of restoration following severe natural disasters. The two presentations titled, "Ecology and Hydrology of Fires and Floods: Applied Science in a

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Changing Landscape” dove into the social, environmental and economic implication of these major disturbances. The emcee of the evening was incoming chapter president Randy Mandel. Before the presentations, Mr. Mandel told the packed crowd about several recent accomplishments made by the chapter and explained that there is currently much momentum to build a stronger organization that brings together practitioners, researchers, government, students, and anyone else interested in being an active participant in the local restoration community. Overall, the night went off without a hitch and marked a major accomplishment for the chapter’s outreach committee who arranged this fun evening.

- Wildfire in the Colorado Front Range: Using tree rings to reconstruct fire history & lessons learned from the Fourmile Canyon Fire. Boulder, the Lazy Dog. March 5th, 2014.
 - Susan Sherrod arranged a pub talk in Boulder with University of Colorado-Boulder Geography graduate student Meredith Gartner who gave an excellent presentation reviewing the effects of fire exclusion on western ecosystems, forest thinning as a means of restoration, and historic ranges of variability with respect to fire frequency.
 - About 50 people attended the event with a lot of new attendees who all signed an email-list and some of while joined the chapter.
 - Meredith not only gave a top-notch presentation but also proved to be a gracious facilitator of animated cross-exchange among City and County personnel, private consultants, citizens, and students. The Lazy Dog supported the event with a steady supply of food and readily flowing taps. Before introducing Meredith, CeRSER President Randy Mandel defined the mission of SER and emphasized the importance of involving people from all sectors of the community regardless of expertise. In response, dozens of attendees signed up to receive more information. We look forward to the next pub talk in the series!



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- Outreach agenda
 - Pub talks have been going well and the committee might look into planning another one before the field season in April or May.
 - Trisha is looking into hosting a talk in Wyoming. There might not be a pub venue big enough so she is considering hosting at the university or the Wyoming Recreation Centre.
 - WRV project or training
 - The outreach committee is still talking with WRV about a collaboration or training day for members. No decisions have been made yet on project type or possible training topic. More news to come.
 - Restoration Training Event
 - Mark is proposing putting on a half-day session, perhaps in the fall with a few speakers or topics, which could be linked with continuing credits through Colorado State University. Any additional input would be appreciated.
 - Susan will organize an internal outreach committee meeting and formalize the proposed plans and ideas.
- Aida Farag, our Regional Representative for SER, is hosting a SETAC SER Restoration Workshop in Jackson Hole, Wyoming on June 2-6, 2014.
- She is looking for nominations for the following three positions.
 - A MS or PhD student with a background in remediation of contaminated lands;
 - An academic representative that could speak to the restoration of disturbed lands; and
 - An NGO representative (i.e., TNC) with experience in either remediation or ecological restoration.
- If any of our members recommend someone for any of the three requested positions at the workshop, please contact Tim Hoelzle.

New Board Member

A motion was suggested by Brett that a new position be created for the outreach chair to be included on the CerSER board. The position would be an elected one held for two years. Susan, the current chair, agreed that having the chair as a full board member would facilitate event planning and budgeting. Brett will change the chapter bylaws to include an outreach board member and send to the membership for approval. Nominations will be sought for the position and an election will be conducted.

Scientific Meeting Committee Update

Mark suggested collaborating with the High Altitude Revegetation committee for their conference in March 2015. He drafted a proposal of committee organizers with lots of spots to fill. Please let Mark know if you are interested in being on the organizing committee. The committee will talk further to confirm a collaboration with HAR.

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Collaborating with the Society for Range Management was also suggested. They are hosting a conference in early December 2014 on 'Restoration of Rangelands and Monitoring'. One of the benefits to partnering with the SRM is there is not as much overlap with membership. More discussions need to be had to confirm what each groups responsibility would be in organizing. These discussions will continue and be better defined by our next chapter meeting.

Next Meeting

The next chapter meeting will be in April. Exact time and location TBA. Thank you.

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