

GBSER, 2018 SRM/GBC meeting

GBSER's in-person meeting consisted of a small group discussion at the 7th annual Great Basin Consortium meeting that held concurrently with the Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management (SRM) in Sparks NV at the Nugget Resort in February 2018. GBSER co-sponsored and helped lead a successful, well attended "RTEC" (SRM Rangeland Technology and Equipment Council) session for a full day on "New Approaches to Reduce Cheatgrass on Great Basin Rangelands". GBSER members Mike Pellant, Dave Pyke, Matt Germino and others presented in the session.

GBSER mini-symposium in SER's webinar series.

In October 2019, SER hosted a short symposium organized by Matt Germino, with presentations by Jeanne Chambers, Cindy Fritz, and Dave Pyke, all GBSER members. The session was titled "*Post-fire Restoration in the Great Basin-Challenges, Opportunities, and a Call to Make Adaptive Management Real*". Over 400 people worldwide attended the event. You can use your SER login to view this and many other presentations at: www.ser.org/page/WebinarLibrary

Restoration at the wildland urban interface, GBSER 2020 meeting

GBSER is planning a substantial meeting in 2020 in Boise, most likely aligning with the Great Basin Consortium biennial meeting (8th meeting). The event will be held at Boise State University on March 17-19th. We will host several days of science-management sessions and field trips to some of the many restoration projects occurring around Boise, and will feature sessions devoted to the organization, challenges, and opportunities for restoration in Boise, and, we hope Logan, Reno, and Salt Lake City – the major urban areas bounding the Great Basin.

8th SER World Conference on Ecological Restoration, 2019

A number of GBSER members are traveling to Cape Town South Africa for the SER World Conference in September 2019. Email Matt Germino at germmatt@isu.edu if you are attending and would like to participate in a gathering of GBSER there, hopefully with guests from other SER chapters from around the world that share similar environments and restoration challenges to GBSER.



**8TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON
ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION**

**SER 2019 | CAPE TOWN
SOUTH AFRICA**

Student meeting travel awards

Restoration has been an important need for our upland and waterway habitats in the Great Basin, and its importance is only increasing as fire, invasive species, and other stressors are causing loss of biodiversity and the ecosystem services. We are continuing to observe a trend of loss or reduction in the knowledge and experience base for restoration in the Great Basin became evident. Looking to the future, it is critical that we continue to motivate an interest in education about restoration, and more importantly the engagement of individuals to become restoration ecologists. Towards this, GBSER will continue to offer support to graduate students to attend professional meetings in restoration ecology, particular meetings that our chapter or society is involved with.

We are making available up to \$2500 total from the Doescher memorial fund to support the flights, lodging, food, or registration for students to attend the activities at meetings that have a clear

relationship to the topical interest of GBSER. We expect to support up to 4 or possibly more students. Interested students should email Trevor Caughlin at trevorcaughlin@boisestate.edu with proposals stating 1) how much their travel is expected to cost, 2) the title and abstract of their presentation, and 3) their degree program information (school, department, degree, major advisor), and a great photo for us to include with the award announcement honoring them in our next newsletter.

2018 GBSER AWARDS

GBSER is one of the only collaborative groups dedicated to Great Basin landscapes that formally recognizes individuals who have made substantial impacts to improving the ecological condition of our landscapes. This activity is important for helping ourselves and the public understand that challenges and opportunities for restoration in the Great Basin, and the key roles that people play in the greater effort. Towards this, we are hoping to both increase the number of nominations for awardees and also the diversity of awards given. For this year, we are recognizing a distinguished practitioner (see below). Moving forward, we hope to recognize a researcher, a practitioner, and a student every year, but we can't do this without nominations. To make a nomination, email the officers the name(s), short biographies, and rationale for awardees.

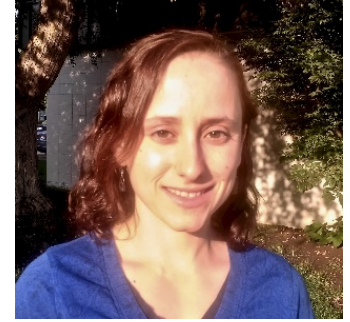
Paul Doescher Memorial Fund

\$3,895 was received in 2018 following the passing of Paul Doescher, a dear and esteemed colleague of many in the Great Basin. The funds will be used to support student travel to meetings relevant to GBSER's topical interests. A total of \$900 was granted from the fund to two graduate students in 2018.

The first recipient was Janyne Little, a MS student at University of Nevada, Reno, to cover driving expenses from California to the SRM/GBSER meeting in Reno. Janyne has graduated and is currently a junior specialist with the University of California Cooperative Extension Office in Lassen County. Her presentation was entitled "Post-wildfire livestock grazing management on public rangeland in Northeast California.

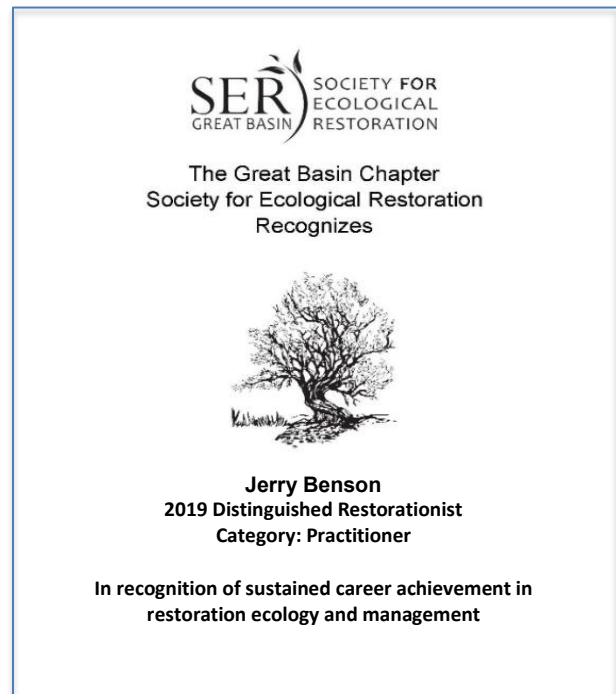


The second student was Cara Applestein, a PhD student from Boise State University who traveled to Spokane WA in October 2018 to present at the SER Joint Regional Conference on "Restoring resilient communities in changing landscapes". Cara's presentation was entitled "The Contribution of Unburned Remnant Sagebrush Islands to Post-Fire Natural Regeneration: Lessons from combining remote sensing and field-based monitoring." Cara has also received fellowships for her innovative research on climate, weather, and post-fire recovery in sagebrush ecosystems from the Joint Fire Science Program and the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center.



Jerry Benson, 2019 Distinguished Practitioner Restorationist

Jerry Benson is a long-time farmer from Washington state who has made significant strides in the seed industry. He graduated from Central Washington University in 1970 with a degree in botany, and graduate work in plant physiology. Through the



years, he has developed two careers, one being crop farming, which includes vegetables, seed crops, forage and grain. Annually he raises at least 200 different crops. Today most of those are seed crops, spread over more than 1700 acres. The second

career has been as a habitat analyst and restoration ecologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife from 1971 to 2001.

Jerry worked extensively in complex mitigation projects as well as restoring native habitats for many species including endangered. He also acts as an Agricultural Management Consultant helping state, federal and native tribes, wildlife land managers in prescribing agricultural practices and restoration procedures for management of wildlife lands. Jerry's favorite part of this assignment has been scouring farm implement dealers in the west for just the right piece of equipment for the restoration management needs on any given site.

The endeavor that currently involves much of his time and energy is establishing a Native Seeds production and restoration business. The goal is to provide the Western States with source-identified Native Grass and Forb Seed for use in restoring native vegetation for improved landscapes and wildlife habitats. Jerry manages numerous species accessions and production fields that encompass both provisional and empirical seed sources. Jerry has always been an entrepreneur and leads the industry in his commitment to providing provenance specific seed sources from a variety of species. His expertise with native species propagation protocols and the 24/7 care he takes monitoring his production fields ensures the success of his operation and the development of quality native seed. Jerry is also instrumental in getting this seed on the ground via numerous restoration projects he has implemented including interseeding of monotypic, non-naive perennial grass stands and degraded sagebrush steppe communities on both public and private lands.

He has been a member of the Washington State Crop Improvement Association, the Washington State Weed Association, Cal-West Seeds, board of directors, Northwest Alfalfa Seed Growers, Farm Bureau and is a Past President of the Mid-Columbia Chapter of the Society

Jerry's work and commitment to restoration via his outstanding work in the production and integration of native plant materials strongly supports his inclusion into the Distinguished Restorationist Alumni.

New bylaws

Do to the challenges faced in recruiting and organizing elections and meetings with the previously large number of elected positions in GBSE, we proposed and voted unanimously to adopt new

officer positions. Starting in 2018, the only elected positions are now the past president, president, president-elect, and treasurer. The teleconference and in-person business meeting are still open to all, and there is ample opportunity for interested members to engage in meaningful ways in these events. This change was made to make the chapter more easy to operate. The bylaws are available on our website.

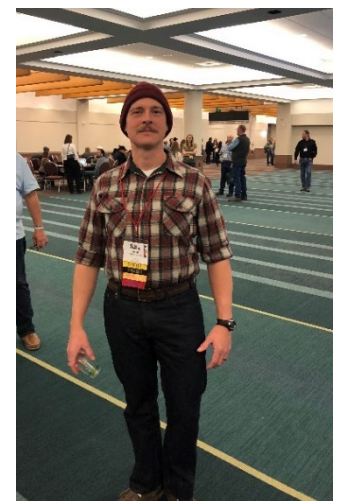
Meet the president elect

Dr. Trevor Caughlin is a new professor who specializes in large-scale ecological restoration problems and quantitative ecology at Boise State University. Trevor's research on upland landscapes has spanned several continents from the tropics to the sagebrush steppe deserts. Notably, Trevor was raised in Boise and is was happy to return following many years as a student and postdoc at University of Florida. GBSE is very appreciative that he is willing to fill in behind Matt Germino extended term as President next year. To help provide more continuity in succession, we would like to identify a president elect for next year.



Other emerging leaders in GBSE

Meet Travis Sowards, PhD Student at Brigham Young University working with Dr. Matt Madsen on restoration seed science and technology, in Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation. After earning his BS in forestry from Northern Arizona University, he worked for four years with the USFS at the Institute for Pacific Islands in Hilo, Hawaii. He is also a 10-year veteran of the US Navy, submarine service. Travis is starting a student association for SER at his university, which brings membership to students there at a very small cost.



Many thanks to Dr Sarah Barga for agreeing to help with our lagging website presence. She received her PhD recently on the plant ecology and restoration



working with Dr. Beth Leger at University of Nevada, Reno, and is currently working as a postdoctoral research geneticist with Francis Kilkenny at the USFS in Boise. If you have content ideas for the website, email her at

sarahcatherinebarga@gmail.com.

Follow us on twitter

Stay up to date with restoration news in the Great Basin by following us on our new twitter account:

<https://twitter.com/SERGreatBasin>

Join us

See our website for information on how to join us, <https://chapter.ser.org/greatbasin/>. We currently have 96 members. We have between 2 and 4 regular teleconferences with our officers and any member wishing to join the calls. Also, we seek to host or co-sponsor at least one field trip and symposium per year. We have one in-person meeting per year.

Our next call will be on June 11. Please email Matt Germino at germmatt@isu.edu if you would like to participate in the call.

Officers

Interested in serving a role in the GBSER? There are opportunities to make distinctive contributions as an active member, including becoming involved enough to serve in one of the elected officer positions listed below. Distinguished Restorationists are invited to serve in an advisory role to the board of officials.

Current GBSER officials are:

President (& newsletter): Matt Germino

President-elect: Trevor Caughlin

Past president: Stuart Hardegree

Secretary/Treasurer: Stan Young

Distinguished restorationists are (by category starting in 2018):

2014: Jeanne Chambers

2015: Nancy Shaw

2016: Mike Pellant

2017: Dave Pyke

2018, practitioner: Jerry Benson



Photo credit: USGS Soda
Fire monitoring crew