



## **August 2019 SER-Rocky Mountain Chapter Member Newsletter**

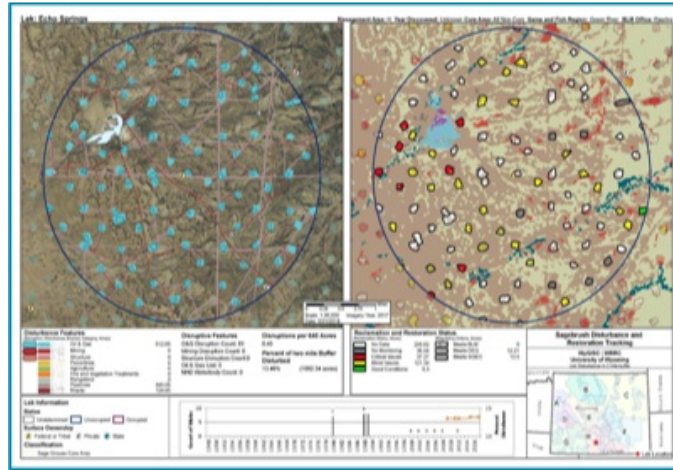
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### **Enhancing Reclamation Data Collection in Wyoming**

**Karen Rogers, Wyoming Game & Fish Department**  
**Wednesday, August 28th • 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**  
**The Office Bar & Grill**  
1600 E. Pershing Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82001

Karen Rogers will discuss a collaborative effort among the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center, and the Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center.

This effort is aimed at providing a web-based platform to improve data collection and reporting associated with land surface disturbance and subsequent reclamation efforts and has gained attention from industry and various federal agencies.



Karen has called Wyoming home her whole life. After starting her career as an archaeologist, she has spent over 20 years as a GIS Professional. Currently, she is a Habitat Protection Analyst for Wyoming Game & Fish Department.

**Thanks to our sponsor, Wyoming Restoration and Reclamation Center--  
their contributions helped make this possible.**

Free admission and appetizers.



**Food, fun, and ecological restoration**

## **Restoration Projects Teach Relationships between Restoration and Sustainability**



*Courtesy Tim Seastedt*

Graduate student members of The University of Colorado student guild of SER-

RM participated in multiple restoration projects with middle and high school students during the 2018-2019 academic year. These projects, organized through Wildands Restoration Volunteers (WRV), allowed CU instructors to explain the various restoration activities in terms of both conservation and ecosystem service values. Favorite outings included riparian restoration and fuel reduction projects.

Evaluations showed that 86% of youth participants showed increased understanding of environmental issues facing the Front Range, and 46% of participants showed increased interest in future leadership or career opportunities in environmental science/natural resources. These findings were directly compared to surveys from youth participants who attended projects without CU participation and showed an increase of 11% with regards to scientific understanding and 17% with regards to interest in environmental science opportunities.

This program will continue in the 2019-2020 academic year and is supported by a grant funded through the CU Office of Outreach and Engagement.

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## **Membership Committee Professional Development Travel Grants**

The Rocky Mountain Chapter recently awarded three Professional Development grants to two students and one professional to attend international conferences this year. Shabana Hoosein, a student at CSU Fort Collins, attended the International Conference on Mycorrhiza in Merida Mexico in May. Richard Alward and Magda Garbowski will attend the SER World Conference this fall in Cape Town South Africa.



As Shabana wrote in her application, here is what this opportunity meant to her: By attending this conference, I will be able to learn what scientists are studying to

utilize mycorrhiza in restoration projects. One big challenge in mycorrhiza research is understanding plant and mycorrhizal fungal communities. At the conference, I hope to discuss and explore more efficient research questions that promote the restoration of soil and plant communities, and brainstorm ways that we can utilize AMF communities to increase restoration success. This conference will not only increase my networking skills but will also give me the opportunity to exchange ideas, collaborate with other mycorrhiza researchers, bring back solutions to improve the way we research soil microbial interactions to facilitate the restoration of plant communities.

There is still money remaining to give to one student or two professionals this year. [Submit your application today!](#)

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## **Lessons learned from Ecological Restoration Projects: Workshop in Fort Collins**

**September 19 • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Colorado Youth Outdoors**

4927 County Rd 36, Fort Collins, CO 80528

We will be hosting our fall workshop at Colorado Youth Outdoors. This year the workshop will be focused on “Lessons learned from Ecological Restoration Projects.”

During the morning sessions of this workshop, Dr. Mark Paschke (CSU), Dr. Kathie Mattor (CSU), and Dr. Pete Stahl (Univ. of Wyoming) will provide examples of reclamation and restoration projects they have been involved in and that have experienced failures. They will discuss lessons learned from these projects and present ideas for how to deal with difficult scenarios in future projects. Following lunch, there will be a field tour of Colorado Youth Outdoors and an afternoon break-out session for attendees to actively participate in a situational restoration project under high risk of failure.

Registration is \$25 (includes lunch).

**Thanks to our co-sponsors for their generous support of this workshop.**



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## What it means to be a Community Wildlife Habitat City

**Vicki Vargas-Madrid, Denver Parks & Recreation**

**Wednesday, October 9th • 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**The Irish Snug Pub**

1201 E Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80218



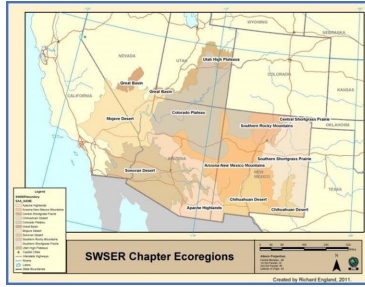
*National Wildlife Federation*

The City and County of Denver intends to become a certified Community Wildlife Habitat by the end of 2019 through the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). This process will result in the creation of habitat gardens, spaces, parks, etc. throughout the city while increasing awareness of their benefits for people, wildlife and water.

**Thanks to our co-sponsors--their contributions helped make this possible.**

Free admission and appetizers.

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## 2019 Annual Conference Society for Ecological Restoration

**Southwest Chapter, Tucson, Arizona • November 8 – 10**

Where Practitioners and Scientists Meet!

The [2019 Annual Conference of the SER – Southwest Chapter](#) will be held November 8 – 10 in Tucson, Arizona at the University of Arizona! We invite submissions of presentations and posters, as well as symposia, panels, and workshops on any topic related to restoration, management, or conservation of natural areas in the Southwest Chapter Ecoregions.

Anticipated topics may include but are not limited to:

RIPARIAN RESTORATION • ENGAGING COMMUNITIES, YOUTH, VOLUNTEERS & CITIZEN SCIENTISTS • TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE • RESTORATION MITIGATION • POLLINATOR CONSERVATION • NATIVE PLANT MATERIALS • REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS • FIRE ECOLOGY • CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION • MONITORING & ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT • INVASIVE SPECIES • RESTORATION FOR WILDLIFE • POLICY & PLANNING • DRYLANDS RESTORATION • AND MORE!

ABSTRACTS AND PROPOSALS DUE AUGUST 30, 2019



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