



December 2020 SER-Rocky Mountain Chapter Member Newsletter

Colorado Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Grants & Financial Assistance

The Colorado Legislature established the [Colorado Noxious Weed Management Fund](#) to provide additional financial resources for on-the-ground noxious weed management. Organized private interests, conservation districts, municipalities, and counties have been eligible to apply for assistance provided that awarded funds are used to enhance weed management efforts within the State of Colorado.

Information for the 2021 Combined Noxious Weed Management (NWF) and U.S. Forest Service State & Private Forestry (SPF) Grant Funds can be found [here](#). **The application deadline is December 18th, 2020.**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Wetlands Project Funding

New Funding Available for 2021

The application deadline is Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

APPLY NOW!

The Colorado Wetlands for Wildlife Program is a voluntary, collaborative, and incentive-based program to restore, enhance and create wetlands and riparian areas in Colorado. Up to approximately \$2.5 million of funds are available thanks to Great Outdoors Colorado and Colorado waterfowl stamps.

[Wetlands Funding Request for Applications \(RFA\) \(docx\)](#)

The intent of this funding is to support the two primary goals of the program:

1. Improve the distribution and abundance of ducks, and opportunities for public waterfowl hunting. Applications supporting this goal should seek to improve fall/winter habitat on property open for public hunting (or refuge areas within properties

open
for
public
hunting),
or
improve
breeding
habitat
in
important
production
areas.

2. Improve
the
status
of
declining
or
at-
risk
species.
Applications
supporting
this
goal
should
seek
to
clearly
address
habitat
needs
of
these
species.
See
species
list
on
the
[Wetlands
Priority
Species
page](#).

In light of the difficulties and challenges of COVID-19, particularly financially, and subsequent reduction in conferences and training, the [SERRM chapter](#) is offering a **new type of scholarship** that will provide



financial support to graduate and undergraduate students focusing on ecology, restoration, natural resources, or a related field. Three to four scholarships in the amount of \$500 each will be awarded on a continuous basis until funds are expended. This scholarship is intended to support students during their studies and does not have specific spending requirements.

Requirements:

- Must be a current member of SERRM
- Must be a student focusing on ecology, restoration, natural resources, or related field and either:
 - An undergraduate student actively conducting an undergraduate research project
 - A graduate student
- Must show current proof of enrollment at their University
- Post award, the student may be asked to provide a short written narrative with photographs of how they spent the money.

Application directions:

- In a single PDF include the following documents:
 - A one-page, 300 words or less narrative describing how you will benefit from this scholarship and what your academic and/or professional aspirations are.
 - Proof of current enrollment at your University and proof of degree program
 - Proof of current SERRM membership
- Send application package to the [SERRM membership committee](#)

Restoration Students Thrive Amidst Less Than Ideal Conditions

December 17, 2020--and Beyond

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) student organization is taking 2020 in stride. Ecological restoration is about improving the situation you're given, so finding ways to complete a project in less than ideal conditions is the norm for these land stewards.

This group of Colorado State University students are learning and practicing how to restore essential processes and aesthetics to natural areas damaged or deteriorated by human use. While adhering to CSU event policies and best practices in place to limit the pandemic's spread, SER student members were still able to plant and monitor new pollinator gardens on campus and in the Fort Collins community this fall. SER Student President Ryan Lawrence said the initiative helped this group of undergraduate and graduate stewards connect while still getting their hands dirty.

The full article can be found at [CSU's College News page](#).

SER-RM Outreach Activities are Back!

The Outreach Committee began a transition from the Pub Talk Series to a webinar based platform to keep members of SER-RM up to date on recent news related to ecological restoration in the Rocky Mountain region. Dr. Mark Paschke (Colorado State University) kicked this off with a talk titled "[Rocky Mountain actinorhizal plants: their importance for post-fire recovery and restoration](#)" on November 12. The series will resume in early 2021 with a focus on post-fire restoration. The Outreach Committee is in the process of lining out a series of presentations, panel discussions, and other engagement opportunities. CERP credits are available for attending these webinars or upcoming workshops.

Upcoming SER Webinars

December 17, 2020--and Beyond

As part of our webinar series, SER hosts at least one webinar each month to provide opportunities for members to engage with restoration experts from academia and the practice. Each [SER webinar](#) is pre-approved for 1 CEC under the [Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner program](#) unless otherwise noted.



[Thornforest Restoration Along the Lower Rio Grande: Retrospectives and](#)

Innovation in the Face of Climate Change

December 17th, 10 - 11 AM MST

Speakers: Kimberly-Wahl Villarreal (plant ecologist for the South Texas National Wildlife Refuge Complex) and Jon Dale (American Forests' senior manager for forest restoration).

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (USFWS) South Texas National Wildlife Refuge Complex facilitates conservation within the subtropical 4-county delta of the Rio Grande River, adjacent to northeastern Mexico. Historically, much of this cover was a species-diverse Tamaulipan thornforest and most of the region's remaining mature forest fragments are now under the stewardship of public agencies like USFWS. In order to re-establish connectivity between these fragments USFWS began a sustained effort at thornforest restoration on adjacent croplands in the 1980's. Over time, the restoration program's efforts have yielded a strong support network of partners and a foundation on which different restoration methodologies have been tested. To this end, USFWS and American Forests have partnered since 2018 to develop a "drought resilience" strategy that includes development of modified planting designs.

Urban Ecological Restoration in Aotearoa, New Zealand

January 13th, 2021 4 - 5 PM MST

Speaker: Bruce Clarkson (Chair of the SER Australasian chapter)

Urban ecological restoration has been the focus of our New Zealand government funded research since 2005. Our most recent research program People, Cities and Nature was initiated in 2016 and concludes in 2021. The program seeks to improve the quality of life, health and economic wellbeing in New Zealand's cities and towns through advanced understanding of urban ecology and the creation of flourishing natural environments. Multidisciplinary research is being undertaken in nine New Zealand cities via six inter-related projects: ■ Restoration plantings ■ Urban lizards ■ Mammalian predators ■ Māori restoration values ■ Green space benefits ■ Cross-sector alliances. While our emphasis was on the ecological science of urban biodiversity restoration at the outset, we have become increasingly involved in understanding the multiple benefits of urban ecological restoration projects including social cohesion and health and recreation benefits. This webinar will focus on the progress made in bringing indigenous nature back into Hamilton City on North Island New Zealand

Check back often as we are constantly adding new sessions at [Restoration Resource Center » Webinars!](#) Recordings of past webinars can be found in our Webinar Library.

SER's Restoration Ecology Journal

Check out some of our top picks from the latest issues of the society's journal!

This year's fires have caused havoc to ecosystems across the western US. In this [article](#), Pyke et al. compare conventional seeding methods to planting container-grown sagebrush in post-fire restoration areas of the Great Basin. They suggest that "strategically planting small, high-density patches of container-grown sagebrush in historic sage-grouse nesting habitat combined with lower density seedings in larger surrounding areas may accelerate sage-grouse habitat restoration".

Monitoring and surveying takes time. Small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS) may help by providing an illustrative record of site conditions. Check out how they can be incorporated into restoration monitoring in this new [article](#) by Evans et al.

Trait-based approaches are becoming popular in ecological restoration. However, in this recent [review](#), Carlucci et al. find that only 12% of restoration papers target both traits and services a priori. The authors argue that establishing links between traits and ecosystem services will be essential for moving the field forward.

Ballot for 2020 Board Election of International Network for Seed-based Restoration

Voting period is December 7 - 21, 2020

As per our Section Bylaws, a portion of the Board positions are open for [election](#) each year. The following positions are up for election in 2020: Chair Elect, Treasurer, and At-Large-Director #3.

The slate of candidates has been built from nominations received during the

period from November 21 to December 4, 2020.
For questions, email us at info@ser-insr.org

SER Virtual Conference on Ecological Restoration

June 21 - 24, 2021



The 9th World Conference on Ecological Restoration moves online. SER2021 will provide a high quality, lively, and interactive forum for learning and networking with members of the restoration community from around the world. An online conference offers new options for participation and engagement, and we're developing exciting activities to bring restoration into your home or office.

The [call for abstracts](#) and [field trip proposals](#) is **open through January 15!** Learn more about the conference and how you can participate [here](#).



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