



March 2021 SER-Rocky Mountain Chapter Member Newsletter

SER-RM Outreach Activities are Back!

The Outreach Committee has lined up additional speakers to start a wildfire restoration webinar series, following [Dr. Mark Paschke's November 2020 webinar](#). All webinars will allow for SER members to get [CERP](#) credits for attending. Look for social media announcements in the coming weeks.

Wildfire Restoration: After the Feds Leave

March 18th, 2021 12 PM MST

[Register Here](#)

The Burn Area Emergency Recovery (BAER) team has produced burn severity maps, USGS debris flow maps and reports. They have moved on to the next emergency. This talk is about cheap action items and tasks. They range from on the ground prescriptions to resources that keep the community safe. It takes time for funding to arrive and more time to determine where it will be spent. But patience is not high on the community's list.

Speaker Bio: Theresa Springer is a Wildland Fire Rehabilitation Coordinator with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte. In her own words, "Chicken Little/Fearmonger to Clairvoyant/Expert" was a short ride for Theresa. In 2000, her job was to raise awareness that it was not a matter of "if" but "when" then forest would burn. She spread the word that forest fires would just get bigger and bigger. Then on June 8th, 2002, Colorado's Hayman Fire roared through 138,000 acres and tragically her predictions proved true. Since then, Theresa has led recovery efforts on too many fires to count. She has learned: "Equality is a trait of wildland forest fires. Recovery efforts are anything but equal."

Tree Regeneration Following Wildfires in High Elevation Forests of the Southern Rocky Mountains

April 8th, 2021 12 PM MST

Note--registration is currently being enabled so check back shortly

Across the Western United States, wildfires are increasingly posing significant risks to ecosystems and society, largely due to climate warming, increases in human, past land management practices, and increasing development in the wildland urban interface (WUI). Notably, this past an unprecedented series of large wildfires burned extensively in areas of subalpine forest in the Southern Rocky Mountains. To provide insight into how these forests may respond, here I will review recent research that examines the drivers of post-fire regeneration in Colorado's subalpine forests and the implications for forest management.

Speaker: Sarah Hart is an assistant professor in the Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship at Colorado State University. Her research integrates fine-scale mechanisms with large-scale patterns and processes to understand the causes and consequences of forest disturbance, including wildfire and insect outbreaks.

Practical Tools and Environmental Sampling Designs for Ecological Restoration Monitoring

Note--May registration is currently being enabled so check back shortly

This is a 3 day series (1 hour/day) featuring the following speakers: Blair Robertson (U. Canterbury, New Zealand - Department of Mathematics and Statistics), Sam Cox (BLM- WY State Office, Remote Sensing expert), and Tim

Robinson (U. Wyoming Department of Statistics).

SER-RM Grant Opportunities

SER-RM has funding opportunities for students and professionals; please reach out to cersermembership@gmail.com for more information.

USFS Rocky Research Station Webinar:

Tree Regeneration Following Wildfires in Ponderosa Pine Forests

March 17th, 2021 12 PM MST

Ponderosa pine forests of the western United States have been experiencing an increase in wildfire activity in recent decades, highlighting a need to understand how they will regenerate post-fire. We synthesize results from a recent project that examined post-fire tree regeneration in ponderosa pine forests of Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota, and how regeneration was affected by a wide range of abiotic and biotic factors. Our results should help managers better predict post-fire regeneration outcomes for recent and future wildfires and better prioritize post-fire management investments to achieve the greatest payoff.

This webinar is part of the Science You Can Use series of land-management focused webinars. The sessions are half presentation, half discussion and Q&A.

USFWS Restoration Series Seminars

[Register Here](#)

RestoreNet : An Emerging Restoration Network Reveals Controls on Restoration Seeding Success Across Dryland Ecosystems by Caroline Havrilla

March 18

**Dryland ecosystems form the largest global biome and support one third of

the global human population but are highly vulnerable to land degradation via disturbance and climate change. Despite widespread demand for dryland restoration and rehabilitation, little information is available to help land managers effectively reestablish native perennial vegetation across drylands. RestoreNet is a restoration field trial network that systematically tests appropriate revegetation techniques across environmental gradients.

Wetland Restoration without the use of plastics by Malenthe Teunis

April 15

Growing recognition of the importance of nature based flood defense for coastal protection has created a need to restore degraded coastal wetlands. BESE-products provides the means to restore these ecosystems in a sustainable manner. Nowadays most restoration projects use plastics or concrete as a kick-start agent. In this webinar we will discuss a few of our projects in mangrove, oyster reef, salt marsh and SAV restoration. We will explain the design and failures and successes of our products and projects. The goal of the webinar is to give you an insight in what kind of biodegradable solutions exist and how you can successfully apply them in the field.

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit 2021 Seminar Series

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Opportunities through the Rocky Mountains CESU

Yellowstone Center for Resources Native Student Internship Program

March 24th, 2021 11 AM MST

Developing a workforce and recruiting employees that reflect the diversity of the American population is vitally important to the National Park Service and Yellowstone National Park. Our internship program is designed to offer opportunities for Native American university/college students (18-35) to gain hands-on experience in natural and cultural resource management in the Yellowstone Center for Resources (YCR), with the intension that students can use skills learned to enter resource management careers in the NPS or other federal agencies.

Upcoming SER Webinars

March 24th, 2021--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.



Peatland Restoration as a Natural Climate Solution in Minnesota

March 24th, 2021 8 - 9 AM MST

Wetland restoration is increasingly being considered as a climate change adaptation by conservation organizations globally. Peatlands store as much as 30% of the world's terrestrial carbon. The Nature Conservancy is developing natural climate solutions (NCS) as an approach to address climate change. Since peatlands are abundant in Minnesota, the TNC regional chapter is assessing the potential for peatland restoration as an NCS strategy. A three-pronged peatland restoration strategy for is recommended: protect large standing stocks of carbon in peatlands, re-wet partially drained peatlands in the north and restore large southern "mucklands" for short-term carbon sequestration and multiple benefits.

Speaker: Dr. Chris Lenhart is SER's CERP coordinator and a Research Assistant Professor with the BBE Department at the University of Minnesota and contributes to The Nature Conservancy, Mn-ND-SD chapter. His work focuses on focused on treatment wetlands, stream restoration and water quality management, particularly in agricultural areas.

Developing Rehabilitation Plans for Riparian Corridors with Environmental, Social, and Economic Limitations

April 14th, 2021 8 - 9 AM MST

Riparian ecosystems are more susceptible to declines in biodiversity than other

terrestrial ecosystems. In Lebanon, riparian forests cover a surface area of 58 hectares, representing 0.04% of the total forest cover. The privatization of lands adjacent to riverbanks has led to noticeable land cover changes in riparian areas. Major areas have turned into intensive agricultural and industrial activities, with a lack of urban planning regulation on important buffer zones and impacting natural resources and functions of riparian areas. In addition, as a result of the continuing political conflicts in the region, refugee settlements near rivers have added pressure on riparian ecosystems, hindering the proper implementation of rehabilitation/restoration measures. With current management still failing at enabling a proper ecological functioning of these areas, appropriate rehabilitation/restoration practices are needed considering a multi-scale approach.

This webinar will cover how to accurately plan riparian rehabilitation projects and develop customized rehabilitation plans targeting fauna and flora conservation and re-establishing riparian functions, in areas with limited resources, while taking into consideration the social norms and other political and economic limitations.

Speakers: Karma Bouazza has worked with the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative and the U.S. Forest Service International Programs since 2011. Mark Vander Meer is a principal partner with Watershed Consulting LLC, based in Missoula, Montana.

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!

Cultivars are widely used in restoration of degraded ecosystems. But, there may be some downsides to their ubiquitous use. In this article, [Foxy and Kramer \(2020\)](#) show that variation in root traits associated with plant survival in arid systems was lower in cultivars of *Pseudoroegneria spicata* compared to native populations. A re-assessment of cultivar performance may be necessary for designing and implementing successful restoration in rapidly changing climates.

Numerous abiotic and biotic barriers make restoration in arid systems challenging. "Precision restoration" can be used to (1) identify site-specific barriers to revegetation success, (2) improve understanding of the spatial and temporal variability in these barriers, and (3) apply "precision" restoration methods to overcoming barriers. Learn more about the framework in [Copeland et al. \(2021\)](#).

As the field of restoration ecology continues to grow rapidly throughout the Decade of Restoration and on, collating and synthesizing information will be imperative for improved restoration research and practice. One way forward may be through meta-analysis, or the analysis of prior projects and results. [Nolan et al. \(2021\)](#) use a meta-analysis approach to determine which practices are most promising for overcoming specific barriers to restoration to improve plant establishment in grassland communities.

SER Virtual Conference on Ecological Restoration

June 21 - 24



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.

Learn more about the conference and how you can participate [here](#). Field Trip Fridays (May 7 - June 9) are one of the best ways to see restoration in action and one of the highlights of the SER 2021 world conference. This year, the virtual format means SER can offer even more field trips (more than 20!) - in two different time slots and from all over the world!

Register Now! Early bird rates are available through March 22nd. SER Members receive an additional discount on conference registration!

External Funding Opportunities

Colorado Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced the 2021 opportunities for enrollment into the **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetlands Reserve Easement Program (ACEP-WRE)**. To compete for available funding in the second round of signup, landowners must submit a complete application to their local NRCS field office by 4:00pm, Friday, April 9, 2021, for funding consideration. ACEP-WRE provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve wetlands and their related benefits. ACEP-WRE easements provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. Additionally, they can have a wide range of other benefits, including filtering sediments and chemicals to improve water quality, reducing impacts of flooding, recharging groundwater, protecting biological diversity, and providing opportunities for educational, scientific and limited recreational activities. Please click [HERE](#) for more information

In response to the impacts of COVID-19, **Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) has launched the Resilient Communities Program (RCP)**. The \$15 million program aims to fund one-time, immediate needs or opportunities that have emerged in direct response to the pandemic. It will help partners advance outdoor recreation, stewardship, and land protection projects in a manner that best reflects community needs and priorities at this moment in time. Capacity and operations support, stewardship efforts, projects that support community vitality, and urgent and emergent land acquisition opportunities will be considered. For more information, including eligibility criteria and application forms, click [HERE](#).

The **Geospatial Experience Center (GeoEx)** at Front Range Community College was created to give students the opportunity to take on GIS projects and gain experience to prepare them for the workforce. GeoEx is funded by a National Science Foundation (NSF), Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant. GeoEx can take on various project types, from digitizing to lidar analysis. Projects GeoEx can take are only limited by the experience of students and their availability. Projects can be completed at your location, the students' home, or at school. For all projects GeoEx will ensure students can use their experience to further their careers. Students must be able to use what they work on with you in their portfolio. If sensitive data is involved, the student can create mock data to represent the original. If you would like to ensure your project is a good fit for our students, become involved in FRCC activities, or have other questions, email GeoEx at skye.lewis@geoexcenter.org. Initiate a project [HERE](#).



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