



## October 2021 SER-Rocky Mountain Chapter Member Newsletter

### Save the Date! Announcing the HAR- SERRM 2022 Conference

April 12th-14th, 2022. Colorado State University,  
Fort Collins



After our Covid-related delay of our 2021 conference, the High Altitude Revegetation Committee (HAR) and Society for Ecological Restoration Rocky Mountain Chapter (SERRM) are pleased to announce our **joint 2022 conference**. We will again host this scientific meeting at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, and welcome all who work in the varied fields of habitat restoration or simply have a passion for restoring our natural resources. Registration details and conference logistics will soon follow!

Are you interested in serving on one of our conference committees? This meeting only happens because of the dedication of our volunteers. We can always use more help! Recruiting for the Vendors and Sponsorship, Logistics, and Student Engagement Committees. To volunteer, please send an email to [Jeremy Sueltenfuss](#), SER-RM Scientific Meeting Committee Chair, with an

indication of the committee or committees that you would like to serve on.

For general information, please contact at [har.serrm@gmail.com](mailto:har.serrm@gmail.com).

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## SER Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner Program

Apply for SER's CERP program by October 31 and become a part of a community of restoration practitioners who are committed to designing, implementing, overseeing, and monitoring restoration projects in line with SER's high professional standards. For more information, contact [certification@ser.org](mailto:certification@ser.org).

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## Upcoming SER Webinars

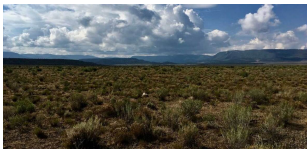
**May 26th, 2021--and Beyond**

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.



### Considering Root Traits for Improved Native Plant Development and Restoration

**October 27, 10 - 11 AM EDT**



Trait-based ecology aims to link specific plant traits, or characteristics that affect fitness, to community assembly, biodiversity, and ecosystem function. Trait-based approaches are increasingly being used to understand plant establishment and survival in restoration settings. In this talk, I will discuss how considering plant traits can improve plant selection for revegetation of systems threatened by drought or competition. I will focus on early seedling and root traits, as they hold great

promise for better understanding plant establishment and survival in stressful systems.

Speaker: **Dr. Magda Garbowski**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the German Center for Integrative Biodiversity Research

### **Restoration for whom, by whom? Exploring the Socio-political Dimensions of Restoration**

**November 10, 10 - 11 AM EDT**



As the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration launches into action, urgent attention is needed to the power and politics that shape the values, meanings, and science driving restoration, to enable the creation of equitable restoration initiatives. In this webinar, we adopt a feminist political ecology lens, with a focus on gendered power relations, historical awareness, and scale integration, to examine the socio-political and economic dynamics of restoration. We demonstrate the potential of such a perspective for thinking about the social inclusivity of restoration agendas and initiatives, and demonstrate its applicability to different restoration contexts.

We bring this perspective to life through three case studies published in a special issue of Ecological Restoration that asks: “Restoration for Whom, by Whom?”. Together, these present more grounded and nuanced ways forward for inclusive restoration initiatives.

Speakers: **Marlène Elias** (CGIAR); **Deepa Joshi** (CGIAR); **Ruth Meinzen-Dick** (IFPRI); **Sanjiv da Silva** (IWMI); **Juliet Kariuki** (University of Hohenheim); **Amrita Sen** (Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur)

### **Lessons from the Cal-Wood Fire: Recovery Efforts for Mitigation and Restoration**

**November 10th, 11 am - 12:30 pm, MST**

**The Cal-Wood Fire** ignited on October 17, 2020 and burned about 10,000 acres in **Boulder County, Colorado** – the largest wildfire in Boulder County

history. 5,000 acres burned on Boulder County Parks & Open Space land, on a heavily used recreational and conservation property called Heil Valley Ranch. The remainder of the fire footprint occurred on a combination of Forest Service land, State Land Board, and private property. Boulder County Parks & Open Space Staff is taking a lead role in fire recovery efforts, including large scale aerial mulching, hazard tree removal, erosion control measures, and native seed-based restoration. Recovery work began in early in 2021 and is currently still in progress. In this webinar, Boulder County staff will present on the fire and recovery efforts, with a panel discussion to follow presentations.



Speakers: **Sharla Benjamin**, Project Manager, Licensed Civil Engineer; **David Hirt**, Boulder County Senior Plant Ecologist; **Stefan Reinhold**, Boulder County Senior Forester

**New Trajectories for Binational Restoration  
Partnerships: Science-based and Diplomacy  
Mechanisms for the Restoration of the Colorado  
River Delta**



**November 17, 10 - 11 AM EDT**

After a century of water development under a legal framework that did not recognize nature as a legitimate water user, the Colorado River today rarely flows to the sea, and its 600,000 ha delta ecosystem has been reduced to a mere 10% of its original size. Environmental NGOs from the United States and Mexico have worked together for nearly two decades to restore riparian and wetland habitats and re-establish a modest connection between the flowing Colorado River and the Upper Gulf of California, for the benefit of nature and people. In the context of a broad dialog to improve Colorado River management at the border to create climate resilience, the two countries have adopted a series of formal, diplomatic agreements that address a suite of mutually beneficial activities that includes environmental restoration. The agreements include commitments of resources (dollars and water) towards a collaborative effort between federal, state, and local governments, NGOs, universities, and communities to initiate environmental restoration activities, while a binational science team informs policy formation and evaluates program implementation. During this webinar, we will replay a keynote presentation from SER2021 and then host a live Q&A with the presenters.

Speakers: **Dr. Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta**, Director of Coastal Solutions Fellows Program at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and **Jennifer Pitt**, Director of the Colorado River Program at the National Audubon Society.

**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.

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## **SER's Restoration Ecology Journal**

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

The process of increasing and sourcing suitable seed for restoration includes many steps that need to be addressed typically years before a restoration project is initiated. [McCormick et al. \(2021\)](#) describe these steps as implemented in the United States, the challenges therein, and provide suggestions and examples of how groups can make efficient and effective progress toward getting the right seed in the right place at the right time.

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## **Upcoming Volunteer Event: Planting Event with RiversEdge West**

**October 27th, 9 am - 1 pm**

In recent years, a significant amount of invasive Russian olive and tamarisk have been removed at Riverbend Park in Palisade, CO. Volunteers will help to further restore this area by planting native plants that will provide a mid-story plant layer that is beneficial for wildlife, birds, and the patrons of the park. Lunch will be available and various snacks and water will be provided throughout the morning. Volunteers are encouraged to bring knee pads/kneelers, gloves, water bottles, sun protection, and work clothes. This event is limited to the first 20 participants. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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# Colorado Weed Management Association 2021 Winter Training

December 8 @ 8:00 am - December 9 @ 5:00 pm

[Register](#) today for the 2021 CWMA Winter Training!

Please join us December 8 & 9 at the Hilton in beautiful Fort Collins, Colorado. The CWMA Winter Training is a great way to get your continuing education credits, network with peers in our industry and learn best practices in weed management.



[CLICK HERE](#) to view the program agenda.

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