

**The Society for Ecological Restoration -
Western Canada**



The Society for Ecological Restoration - Western Canada (SER-WC) is a volunteer-based organization that brings people together to share information about ecological restoration. As one of fourteen regional chapters of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), our connectivity with this international body links us with the most current ecological restoration information available, and provides our membership with the latest knowledge, job opportunities, and research affiliations. Founded in 1999 in British Columbia, Canada, SER-WC expanded in 2014 to include the four western provinces - British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, as well as the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Since that time, our membership has grown steadily as professionals from various sectors have come together under the SER flagship. Our new-found commonality links reclamation, conservation, and restoration professionals and students as we work to expand our knowledge and ability to restore degraded ecosystems.

SER-WC connects with the ecological restoration community using various means such as our website, conferences, workshops, and providing collaborative platforms for networking and education. We continually build our membership and provide exclusive benefits such as a subscription to an informative e-newsletter; discounted rates for conference registrations, journal subscriptions, and books; access to the online members' community and Career Centre. New in 2016, SER and our chapter now offer professional certification as a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner that is recognized internationally.

WEBSITE. Our website (<http://chapter.ser.org/westerncanada/>) is our most important tool for reaching out to the global restoration community. We use it to distribute new and vital information about restoration projects, news and events, and as a platform for members to share information about employment and educational opportunities. The Resources section provides Weekly Restoration Tips, information on Canadian-based education programs, job and funding opportunities, and close-ups of ongoing restoration projects province by province which illustrate the diversity and growing body of restoration initiatives.

We encourage professional growth by providing links to regional and international conferences, workshops, and certification such as Canadian Biomonitoring Network (CABIN), the Wetlands Institute, and links to regional field schools. The SER-WC Newsletter is another pertinent source for links for funding opportunities, and is one touch links to publications including SER Journals and recent publications such as the Natural Ecosystem Service Toolkit by Parks Canada to assess ecosystem services to inform policy and management decisions. Restoration News is our platform to highlight upcoming and up-to-date restoration projects throughout the region.

CONFERENCES. SER-WC (and its predecessor SER-BC) have collaborated with other groups – such as the Foothills Reclamation Institute - to hold noteworthy conferences throughout our region. Examples include the Helping the Land Heal Conference at the University of Victoria in 2004, and Restoration 2012: Beyond Borders, also at UVIC. Now SER-WC invites you to take part in our latest venture, *Restoration for Resilience 2018*, being hosted by Simon Fraser University and the British Columbia Institute of Technology in Vancouver, BC. Come to the coast, enjoy the scooters, and explore restoration with like-minded individuals. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Restoration for Resilience 2018 Organizing Committee
Society for Ecological Restoration – Western Canada chapter