

NOV 5-8 2009, NARAMATA BC

Call for Papers, Posters, and Field Trip Leaders

Shared Responsibility for a Sustainable Landscape

Working co-operatively to restore Okanagan-Similkameen ecosystems and sustainable communities.

This conference is co-organised by the Society for Ecological Restoration, BC Chapter, and the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance.



Send submissions to:
outreach@osca.org

General Inquiries:
tamara@desert.org

The Okanagan-Similkameen offers an amazing array of diversity, from riparian forest to grassland; from floodplain to high-elevation alpine; and from some of the most productive farmland in Canada to some of our country's most sought-after real estate. At the same time, a diversity of interests— Crown, private, conservation, and First Nations— manages the landscape in a myriad ways. Although those using the land may operate independently, the landscape of the Okanagan-Similkameen relies on the health of all its parts. Our challenge is to find ways of working together to restore, reconnect, and sustain our Valleys' ecosystems and communities.

This conference will bring together a wide range of land stewards who will share their experiences and methods of caring for our region. Collectively, we will explore ways of connecting the ideas, people, and, ultimately, the landscapes represented. This conference acknowledges the positive role that people can play in the restoration, management, and protection of ecosystems as we continue to advance toward a more sustainable future together.

Major themes of this conference include but are not limited to:

- Enhancing biological diversity across the landscape and protecting species at risk through ecological restoration.
- Restoration of riparian forests and wetland habitat, and the relationship that water plays in surrounding ecosystems.
- Managing the threats of invasive exotic species.
- First Nations ecocultural restoration initiatives.
- Ecological restoration's role on sustainable agriculture and the agro-industries.

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Who will attend?

This conference will be of interest to ecological restoration practitioners, researchers, land managers, resource industries, consultants, community leaders, public interest groups, First Nations, parks and public works managers, farmers, ranchers, and students.

We invite papers, posters and field trip leaders for this regional conference on ecological restoration.

Oral Presentations

Oral presentations will be 20 minutes in length with 5 additional minutes for questions. Submit your abstract along with a presentation title, your complete contact information, and a short statement of your background by email to Jacquie Likins (outreach@osca.org) no later than July 15, 2008. We will select the speakers by July 31, 2008.

Student presenters will receive free admission to the conference.

Posters and Displays

Posters and displays can be free standing, on a table or affixed to a wall. Please email your title, full contact information, and space requirements by Sept. 30, 2008.

Field Trip Leaders

If you would like to lead a field trip, please email a description of the field trip, including destination and purpose of the trip, and the number of people you can accommodate by July 15, 2008.

All accepted presenters are expected to provide a brief description of your paper, poster, or field trip, in Microsoft Word format, for the Conference Summary. All papers should be submitted by Sept. 30, 2009. If you expect to publish a paper related to your talk, an abstract will be satisfactory.

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***Pre- Conference Workshop–
Ecological Restoration Certification***

This conference will be preceded by an afternoon workshop on the Restoration Project Certification Program being developed by SER BC. Participants are encouraged to run their own project through a mock certification, and participant's collective experiences will be shared and discussed during the workshop. View instructions on how to participate and download the draft "Certification of Ecological Restoration Projects" document at www.ser.org/serbc/certification.asp.

Details are at www.ser.org/serbc/events.asp