



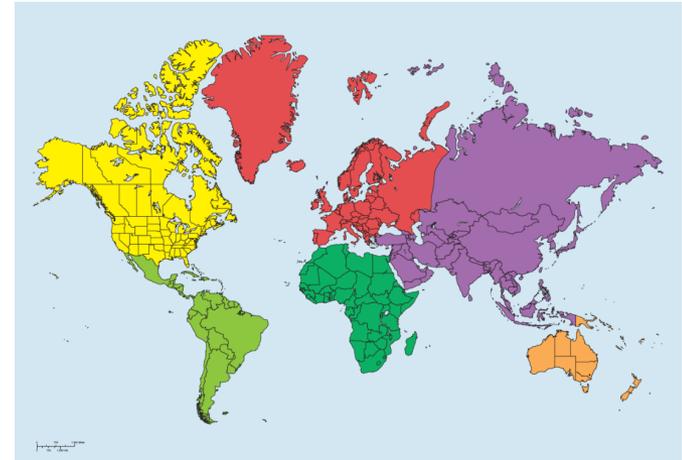
CERTIFIED ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PRACTITIONER PROGRAM OVERVIEW

OCTOBER 2016



Society for Ecological Restoration

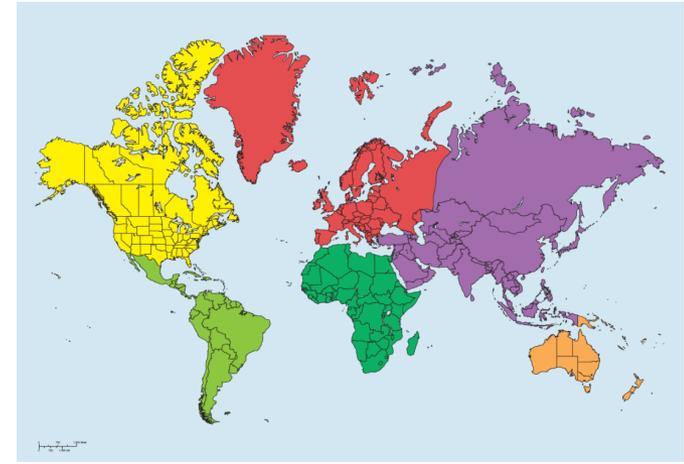
- SER advances the science, practice, and policy of ecological restoration
 - Publishes the peer-reviewed journal Restoration Ecology
 - Organizes an Island Press ecological restoration book series with 27 titles
 - Publishes reports and guidelines on ecological restoration
 - Now → certification and continuing education





Society for Ecological Restoration

- 2,500 members across 68 countries
 - Scientists and academics
 - Practitioners
 - Artists
 - Engineers
- Communications and Policy
 - Facilitating communication and information exchange
 - Workshops, conferences, continuing education, thematic sections
 - E-communications and online forums
 - Informing decision-makers
 - Participating in world forums (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity)





Certification Program Drivers

- Members have expressed interest in certification since 1990s
- SER members want credentials that recognize their education, training, knowledge and experience
- SER wants to improve the standards of practice in the field of ecological restoration, as well as actual implementation on the ground





Certification Program Goals

Goal 1: Establish and validate the credentials for ecological restoration practitioners

Goal 2: Encourage practitioners to practice ecological restoration according to consistent, comprehensive “standards of practice”

Goal 3: Increase public, client, employer, and peer confidence in ecological restoration practice and practitioners

Goal 4: Fill an increasing demand for a skilled workforce to design, implement and monitor effective ecological restoration projects

Goal 5: Improve the quality of ecological restoration projects on the ground

Goal 6: Facilitate the exchange of information and promote the advancement of proven techniques used in ecological restoration.

Goal 7: Define a clear pathway into, and provide a supportive environment within the restoration community



Types of Certification

- **Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP)**
 - Senior level practitioners
 - At least 5 years of full-time experience with restoration
 - Strong knowledge base in ecosystem and ecological function
- **Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner-in-training (CERPIT)**
 - Recent graduates and those practitioners who do not yet have 5 years of full-time experience
 - Those with sufficient experience who are still developing their knowledge base





Certification Requirements

Knowledge Base

Professional-level
Experience

References

Ethics and
Disciplinary Policies

Foundations of the
Profession



Certification Requirements: Knowledge

- Academic credentials
 - Coursework specific to ecological restoration and restoration-related fields
 - Requirements developed, in part, through extensive survey of academic degree programs in ecological restoration in North America

- Grandfathering 2017-2022
 - Alternatively, focus on outcomes related to ecological restoration knowledge for those who do not have the specified coursework at this time (e.g., graduated prior to the development of ecological restoration-related course and degrees)

Category	DRAFT Credit Requirements	Course Examples
Biological Science	15 credits (at least 9 credits in ecology)	General biology (e.g., cell biology, genetics); ecology (e.g., forest ecology, wetland ecology, freshwater ecology, ecosystem ecology); botany (e.g., plant taxonomy, plant physiology); zoology (mammalogy, wildlife population biology, entomology)
Physical Science	15 credits (at least 6 credits in soils, hydrology, and/or climate science)	Soil science, hydrology, geology, climate science, physics, chemistry, fluvial geomorphology
Resource Management and Conservation	12 credits (must include at least 3 credits in ecological dimensions and at least 3 credits in human dimensions)	Ecological dimensions (e.g., forest management, fire management, range management, management of native or natural communities, invasive species management, conservation of wildlife populations, plant conservation, project planning and management) Human dimensions (e.g., ethics of resource management, natural resource policy, conflict resolution, administration, law, social sciences, communications)
Quantitative Science	9 credits (at least 6 credits in inventory, monitoring, or assessment)	Sampling theory and design, monitoring and assessment, data management, field techniques, GIS, remote sensing, biometrics, statistics
Ecological Restoration	6 credits	Ecological restoration, restoration ecology



Certification Requirements: Experience

- Professional-level Experience
 - Experience performing restoration project and/or program work
 - CERP requires at least 5 years of full-time experience
 - CERPIT is for those individuals with less than 5 years of full-time experience





Certification Requirements: References

- Demonstrate that the practitioner is:
 - Held in high esteem by other restoration practitioners (e.g., peers, supervisors)
 - Has exhibited proficiency in various aspects of ecological restoration
- Starting in 2023, at least one reference will be required to come from an SER certified practitioner





Certification Requirements: Ethics and Disciplinary Policies

- SER Code of Ethics
 - Required to sign and abide by code
- SER Certification Program Disciplinary Policy
 - Required to sign and abide by disciplinary policy

The image shows a document titled "Society for Ecological Restoration Code of Ethics". At the top left is the SER logo, which consists of the letters "SER" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION" in a smaller, all-caps font. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of a plant with three leaves. Below the logo, the title "Society for Ecological Restoration" is centered, followed by "Code of Ethics" also centered. The document is divided into sections: "Preamble", "Advance Ecological Restoration", and a bulleted list of principles. The preamble includes a quote from the SER mission statement: "The Society for Ecological Restoration promotes ecological restoration as a means of sustaining the diversity of life on Earth and reestablishing an ecologically healthy relationship between nature and culture." The "Advance Ecological Restoration" section contains two bullet points: "We advance the field of ecological restoration by promoting competence, high standards, professional development and the sharing of knowledge." and "We encourage education, research and the exchange of ideas as part of a community of practice in the continuing development of the art, practice and science of ecological restoration for members, the public and the ecosystems we serve."

SER SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

Society for Ecological Restoration

Code of Ethics

Preamble

"The Society for Ecological Restoration promotes ecological restoration as a means of sustaining the diversity of life on Earth and reestablishing an ecologically healthy relationship between nature and culture."
- SER mission statement

We serve all those who engage in restoration: researchers, practitioners, experts and volunteers. We aspire to constant learning, openness to many forms of knowledge, humility and perseverance in the face of ecological challenges, and honesty and responsibility in our practice.

As a relatively young science and practice, the ecological restoration community is coming to terms with rapid environmental, ecological and cultural changes. Our understanding of ecosystems and how to assist their recovery is constantly evolving.

This work takes courage and a willingness to live with complexity and uncertainty. There are difficult choices involved in addressing the needs of ecosystems, people, animals, plants and other organisms.

We know that the health of human communities depends on the health of ecosystems, and that our human communities thrive when our ecosystems thrive.

This Code of Ethics guides the conduct and work of SER members, boards and staff. We uphold this code and hold each other accountable to advance the science and practice of ecological restoration, develop and use knowledge pertaining to restoration, serve as an ambassador of SER, promote fairness and equality, and maintain high standards of conduct in our activities.

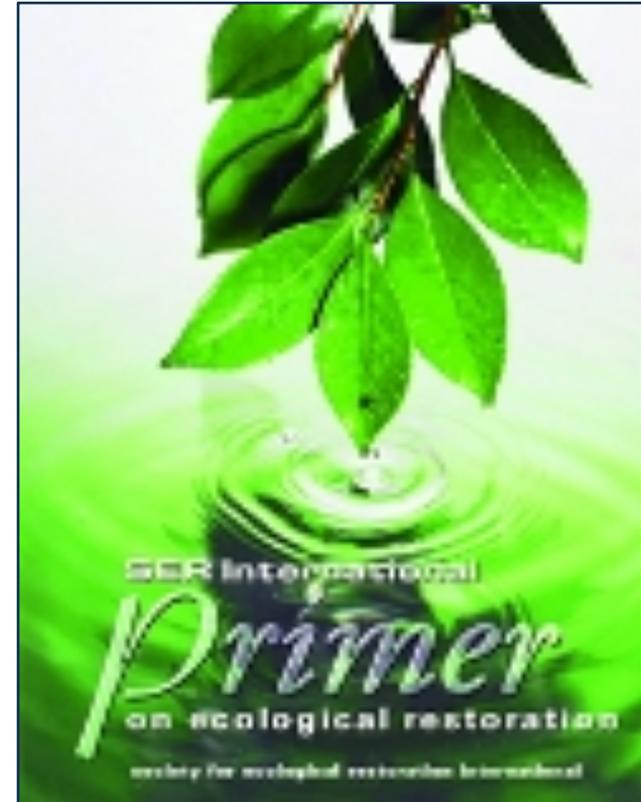
Advance Ecological Restoration

- We advance the field of ecological restoration by promoting competence, high standards, professional development and the sharing of knowledge.
- We encourage education, research and the exchange of ideas as part of a community of practice in the continuing development of the art, practice and science of ecological restoration for members, the public and the ecosystems we serve.



Certification Requirements: Foundations of the Profession

- Knowledge and understanding of the fundamental concepts of ecological restoration presented in key SER foundation documents via e-learning tool
 - SER Primer
 - IUCN guidance documents
 - International standards
 - E-learning tool to introduce concepts, test knowledge





Application Process

- Two application windows/year
 - January - March
 - July - September
 - Certification announced 6-8 weeks following application deadline
 - Additional 4 week allowance for applications following grandfathering policy or applications that don't clearly meet all requirements
- Automated online application process through website
 - Monitor progress of application
 - Upload supporting documentation
 - Take e-learning course in fundamentals of ecological restoration





Fee Structure

Fee	Membership Status	Practitioner	Practitioner-in-training
Initial Application Fee	SER Members	\$250	\$100
	Non-members	\$350	\$200
Annual Maintenance Fee	SER Members	\$75	\$50
	Non-members	\$100	\$75
Recertification Fee	SER Members	\$125	\$100
	Non-members	\$225	\$200
Upgrade from Practitioner-in-training to Practitioner	SER Members	NA	\$100
	Non-members	NA	\$150



Certification Maintenance and Renewal

- 5-year certification period
- Continuing education credits required in order to renew
 - Pre-approvals for courses/workshops will be offered
 - CE program can be managed online by practitioners and authenticated by SER in advance of renewal





Continuing Education Credit Examples

- College-level continuing education coursework
- Specialized training (short courses and workshops)
- Attending approved conference sessions and/or symposia at SER and partner conferences
- Publications, including technical and educational materials
- Instruction of short courses/workshops
- Pre-approved volunteer activities





Program Benefits for Certificants

- Formal recognition
- Certificate and card
- Certification notification letter to employer
- Permission to place the title or acronym of certification (CERP) after certificant's name
- Directory of certified practitioners, associated networking opportunities
- Priority registration for selected training courses
- Discounted registration fees for SER-offered training courses and affiliated training courses as possible
- Certified Practitioner's news and updates





Program Benefits for Others

- Easy identification of certified ecological restoration practitioners who meet a high standard of education and experience
- Improved quality assurance and quality control for ecological restoration projects
- Confidence that certified practitioners are bound by the SER Code of Ethics and will act in a manner that is consistent with the standards of conduct





Program Launch

- Go to our website (www.ser.org) to sign up for email notifications
- SER will offer additional information via webinar and website prior to program launch
- We will begin accepting applications in January 2017!



A scenic landscape featuring a bright blue sky filled with fluffy white clouds. In the foreground, there is a lush green field of wildflowers, with some tall, thin stalks of grass or wildflowers reaching up. The background shows a dark line of trees on the horizon.

Thank You

Questions/Comments?

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