



2026 RIPARIAN RESTORATION CONFERENCE:

Where Water, Wildlife, and People Meet

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE | MARCH 3-5, 2026 | GRAND JUNCTION, CO

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

JOIN US FOR OUR 22ND RIPARIAN RESTORATION CONFERENCE

RiversEdge West invites you to share your work with the riparian restoration community at our 22nd Riparian Restoration Conference (RRC) — the leading riparian restoration conference in the Southwest. The proposed topic(s) should be novel, timely, and interesting to a broad range of practitioners, land managers, landowners, policy makers, scientists, and/or students. Presentations that incorporate innovative approaches, community engagement, applied science, best management practices, analyses of riparian restoration, and/or lessons learned are strongly encouraged.

ABSTRACTS FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS ARE DUE ON OCTOBER 10, 2025

Abstracts for poster presentations are due January 5, 2026.

Submit your abstract(s) as a Word Document using this form— <https://forms.gle/SFaomtvIjMp2tjSw9>

POTENTIAL TOPICS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

CLIMATE CHANGE, FIRE, & RESILIENCE

How can we adapt restoration to be successful in a rapidly changing climate? Share case studies and tools for climate-adapted riparian and stream restoration, strategies for drought-resilient revegetation, and lessons from projects that reduce wildfire risk or support recovery after fire.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & MONITORING

Which tools, technologies, and research are making restoration more effective and efficient? Share innovative monitoring methods, new data or frameworks, and approaches for tracking both ecological and social outcomes.

WILDLIFE & HABITAT

Does restoration create quality aquatic and riparian habitat for wildlife? As we look to the future, what are the key challenges and opportunities for restoring riparian and aquatic habitat? What are our goals for ecological communities in and around rivers?

REVEGETATION

What native riparian plant species are the most successful in your restoration projects or research (e.g. sourcing, successes, failures, alternatives, genetics of effective cultivars, planting techniques)? What strategies have you used to restore riparian areas under harsh conditions (saline soil, highly altered flows, drought conditions)? What methods have been most effective for controlling herbaceous weeds while establishing native vegetation?

RESTORATION PRACTICES

What techniques and approaches are proving most effective—or ineffective—for riparian restoration? Highlight project design, implementation, and monitoring methods, including lessons from process-based restoration (PBR). What outcomes have you observed—intended or unexpected? How do you measure long-term success, and how do you communicate the value of restoration to funders, landowners, and communities?

LESSONS LEARNED & FAILED PROJECTS

What have we learned from past riparian restoration experiences? We encourage candid stories of both successes and failures—what worked, what didn't, and what could have been done differently. It is much easier to discuss successes but we may learn even more from our failures.

HUMAN DIMENSIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

How do people shape restoration? Provide examples of engaging First Nations, ranchers, farmers, community leaders, and other stakeholders. Explore how cultural values, community priorities, and storytelling influence outcomes, and how projects can promote equity, environmental justice, and long-term stewardship.

POLICY & FUNDING

What policies, legislation, or funding mechanisms best support restoration in the West? Identify gaps and opportunities for improving the policy and funding landscape to sustain riparian restoration into the future.

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ABSTRACTS FOR POSTER PRESENTATIONS ARE DUE ON JANUARY 5, 2026.

ABSTRACT INSTRUCTIONS

Submit your abstract(s) as a Word Document using this form— <https://forms.gle/SFaomtv1jMp2tjSw9>

For any questions or concerns, email Nicole at Ncook@Riversedgewest.org

Title

Size 12 Calibri font, bold, centered, title case (e.g. Capitalize the First Letter of Each Word)

Author Name^{1*}, Author Name²

Size 11 Calibri font, centered. Note the presenting author(s) with an asterisk after their last name, all authors should be accompanied with a superscript linking to their contact information in the subsequent line. For multi-author abstracts, place an asterisk only next to the person(s) who will be presenting. First and last name required, no middle initial.

Affiliations

Size 10 Calibri font, justified left. State the Organization/Company Name, City/Town, State/Province, Country; Email Address

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[paragraph break]

Abstract Content

Size 11 Calibri font, justified left.

Please begin with a concise statement of the topic and end with a substantive conclusion about what major takeaways attendees will learn from this presentation or session.

- Please italicize Latin species names.
- Spell out acronyms.
- If you are suggesting a session topic, include potential speakers, affiliations, and contact information for each presenter

Abstract Type

Please indicate: 1) whether you would like this considered for an oral or poster presentation (or both), and; 2) what session topics best suit your presentation.

EXAMPLE

Title of Conference Presentation, Session, or Poster

First Last Name^{1*}, First Last Name², and First Last Name³

¹Organization/Company Name, City/Town, State/Province, Country; Email Address

²Organization/Company Name, City/Town, State/Province, Country; Email Address

³Organization/Company Name, City/Town, State/Province, Country; Email Address

Abstract content here.

*Denote presentation type (oral/poster), format (PowerPoint, field demonstration, site tour), and appropriate session topics.

MORE INFORMATION

CANCELLATION POLICY

Please do not submit an abstract if you are not confident that you will be able to attend the conference and make the presentation. Cancellations impose a serious burden on the Conference Committee and negatively impact the overall quality of the program. If your presentation has been accepted but extenuating circumstances prevent you from presenting in-person, we ask that you attempt to find another individual to make the presentation and notify us of this change as soon as possible. If your abstract is accepted, you will receive additional information regarding presentation logistics and guidelines.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TERMS

All presenters are required to register for the conference before January 15, 2026; acceptance of an abstract does not imply funding for registration or travel. Upon confirmation of participation, abstracts will be published on the conference web page unless otherwise noted.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Most oral presentations will be 20 minutes in length (15 minutes for your presentation with 5 minutes for questions). Please note that the length of each presentation is subject to change.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Poster presentations are strongly encouraged as they allow extended informal discussions and active participation of co-authors. There will be a dedicated poster session on Wednesday, March 4th in addition to the posters being displayed throughout the duration of the conference. The abstract deadline for poster presentations is January 5, 2026.

SYMPOSIA

Symposia are comprised of a series of presentations that address aspects of a single topic. Organizers can request sessions that are 5 or 10 talks in duration. Each talk is 20-minutes. Symposia may include panel discussions as part of their session. Symposia are scheduled to run concurrently with other conference sessions. Attendance is open to all conference registrants. You may suggest your preferred format (e.g. multiple presentations surrounding a specific theme, panel discussion, workshop) for symposia/session structure.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Panel discussions are a forum for interactive discussion of a topic among a panel of experts and an interested audience. Typically, a panel of four to eight speakers makes introductory remarks. The audience is then invited to make comments and question the panel. Panel discussions are scheduled for 100 minutes and will run concurrently with other conference sessions. Attendance is open to all conference registrants.