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Cover image by Joel Caldwell

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A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 2021 annual report for Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA. The past year has put many of our ideas to the test: can on-the-ground restoration efforts succeed while the challenges of a pandemic and economic uncertainty remain so strong? Will we continue to find supporters who will drive this shared vision of a resilient, flourishing landscape for both people and nature together?

It turns out there's plenty of work to be done, and we find ourselves among a committed community of restoration leaders, donors, and volunteers who continue to step forward, organize and tend the fundamental relationships between humans and land. I see this commitment take shape in the form of restoration camp leaders who cultivate relationships with local initiatives and leaders, and who organize opportunities for hands-on action. I see this commitment in the volunteers and supporters who make the time to get outside and plant trees, learn the names and qualities of native plants, cover the soil and practice fire management and recovery. I see this commitment in our donors, who read newsletters (thank you!), blogs, fireside chats and reports, celebrate our growth and continue to ask how they can help. The board and staff can see that this work is also dear to you, because many of the donations come with mentions of honor and memory of your friends, colleagues and loved ones.

From these challenging times, we've also seen the camps network reveal the importance of the local community. We're seeing more localized interest to participate and build relationships, and camps have responded by facilitating events for participants to convene and learn (see Camp Coyote), prioritizing team building and vision setting (see Camp Paradise), and reaffirming their commitment to ecological learning in the face of fire impacts (see Camp Hotlum).

In the following report, you'll see more about our accomplishments from 2021, but our commitment remains to achieving even more action in 2022: growing participation toward an abundant future, achieving more impact through support to the camps, and offering greater opportunities to learn and apply knowledge in service of regenerative land stewardship. And on we go!

Marieke Karssen
Chair, Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA











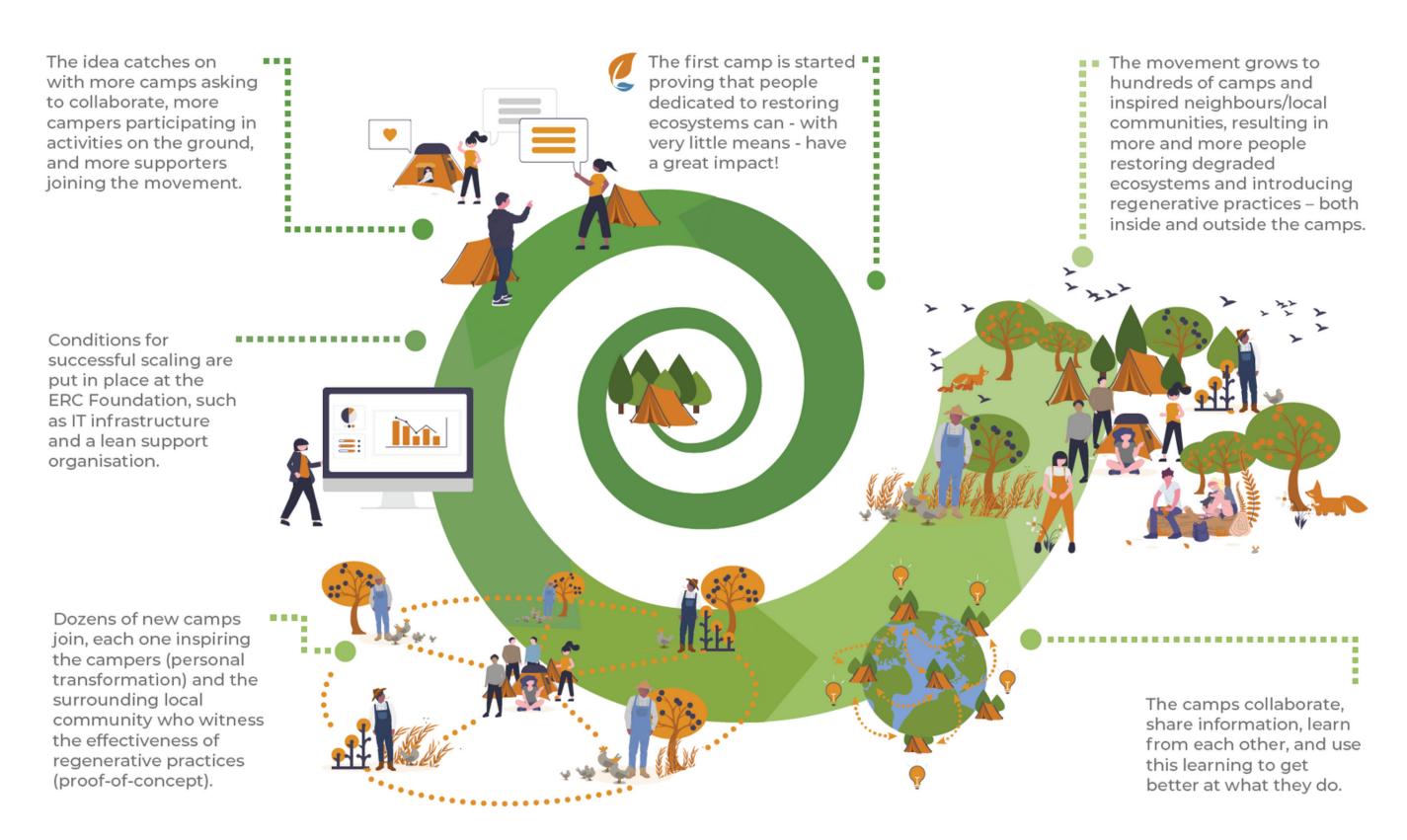
ABOUT THIS REPORT

This document details the 2021 activities of Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered in the state of New York.

Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA (ERC USA) was established in 2020 to support the implementation of site-based restoration through both theoretical and applied education on ecosystem restoration design and practices. ERC USA operates in direct collaboration with Stichting Ecosystem Restoration Camps Foundation in the Netherlands. We support restoration activities that are part of the global Ecosystem Restoration Camps movement. This includes connecting volunteers with camps and providing technical, educational and financial support to camps. Further information on global activities and camp events are detailed in a separate report filed annually in the Netherlands.

ERC USA follows restoration priorities and policy setting established by the global team, and is independently responsible for raising and administering funds through US-based donations. We work directly with ERC camps in the US and abroad to provide technical, volunteer, and financial support to achieve their restoration objectives. This means supporting crowdfunding campaigns for camps, developing opportunities for camp teams to strengthen their own capacities, and supporting camps to prepare and administer individual or joint proposals for US-based public and private grants.

HOW WE WORK: A SYSTEMS APPROACH TOWARDS REGENERATIVE CHANGE







OF DIRECTORS



Marieke Karssen Chair



Rhamis Kent Vice Chair



François de Keuleneer Secretary



Erin Beasley
President & Executive Director

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ERC USA held an open call for board applications and welcomed the following new members to the board in 2021:



Santiago Cortés lives in New York, as the working Head Environmental and Social Governance at AMERRA Capital Management, an asset management firm focused on food and agriculture in the Americas and Europe. Santiago began his career in the public sector at the National Agency of Hydrocarbons in Colombia and later transitioned to sustainability consulting, where he worked on a range of projects promoting social transformation. Santiago holds a masters degree from the Yale School of the Environment. With ten years of experience in the environmental sector, Santiago truly believes in the value of connecting people and understanding the local context to promote positive change.



Jason Funk is Principal & Founder of the Land Use & Climate Knowledge Initiative, a project of the Global Philanthropy Initiative. Jason works at the intersection of land use and climate change, seeking ways to incentivize land management activities that can slow climate change, improve rural development, shape more sustainable landscapes. He has advocated for sensible land-use policies at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change for over ten years, and is a certified expert reviewer for national greenhouse gas inventories. Jason earned his Ph.D. from Stanford University, and holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Environmental Science from Ohio State University.

MISSION

To support the implementation of land-based restoration sites, primarily through theoretical and applied education on ecosystem restoration, design, and practices.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Erin Beasley, President and executive director. As director, Erin brings 15 years of nonprofit and sustainable development experience in more than ten countries in the Americas, Africa and Asia including proposal development, grants management and reporting, project design, international policy advocacy and participatory community development. Prior to her current position with Ecosystem Restoration Camps, Erin worked with Conservation International in Washington, DC to ensure the inclusion of nature in international climate action under the Paris Agreement and in national development policies. Before moving to DC, Erin was working in Cochabamba, Bolivia supported by a Gruber Fellowship for Global Justice and Women's Rights where she designed and implemented workshops with women farmers on climate change adaptation and agroecology. She studied at the Yale School of the Environment with a focus on agricultural resilience to climate change and also worked as a Program Officer at the Yale Tropical Resources Institute. She has served on country delegations at climate negotiations and carried out opportunity analyses for improved forest management in Mexico. Erin speaks fluent Spanish, intermediate Portuguese, elementary French and elementary Quechua, and spends equal time gardening and rock climbing when she is not advocating for ERC's amazing restoration partners.

Ofelia Garcia, Operations and grants volunteer. Ofelia has experience in research, outreach, and global nonprofit initiatives through previous work, volunteer, and educational experience. While studying for a degree in Psychology and Spanish, she supported community-based projects in the U.S. and in Latin America that addressed topics including women's health and immigration. After graduating, Ofelia worked as a research assistant in two clinical studies. Most recently, she managed outreach and recruitment at a New York University psychology lab. In addition to her support to ERC USA, she is taking science courses, studying languages, and learning to play the piano.







RESTORATION CAMP PARTNERS



Paradise

Paradise, California

Community projects for ecological resilience in a post-fire landscape.



Coyote

Coyote Valley, California

Fire risk mitigation practices, edible hedgerows, food forests, tree propagation and community engagement.



Elk Run

Boulder, Colorado

Agroforestry strategies and agrocology farm design in semi-arid climates.



The Land

Philo, California

Co-living and regenerative land stewardship focused on personal development and justice.



Hotlum

Mt Shasta, California

Forest restoration and ecological leadership development in a post-fire landscape.



ERC USA supports a growing network of over 47 camp partners in the United States and around the world. As of 2021, this included a community of 8 independently run camp partners across the US.



Birdhouse

Los Angeles, California

Urban restoration, arts, and increased biodiversity in a network of community-managed green spaces.



OLCERI

Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota

Natural building and permaculture home gardens for local food sovereignty and resilience following Lakota values.



Watershed Forest Farm

Marshall. North Carolina

Forest gardening and watershed management in a temperate forest ecosystem.

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW CAMPS

We couldn't be happier to welcome new US-based partners to the Ecosystem Restoration Camps network. The initiatives, knowledge and innovation of these camps is at the heart of restoration! Many of their events are currently focused locally, but we will continue to update our website with all upcoming events. We're all eager to get to a camp when the time is right!

ELK RUN

Longmont, Colorado. Drylands Agroecology Research (DAR) and their demonstration farm, Elk Run, work as active leaders in the Boulder-area regenerative farming community, teaming up with other local farms to host "farm hops," or tours of regenerative land practices. They work in a semi-arid, high altitude climate and share courses on fermentation, soil health, regenerative design, and composting.

WATERSHED FOREST FARM

Marshall, North Carolina. Watershed Forest Farm is a forest-based initiative that inspires and educates visitors on temperate forest ecology, foraging, and regenerative livelihoods. Visitors are invited for courses on mushroom identification, medicinal forest plants, and market gardening. This camp recently achieved a conservation easement to ensure the long-term forest stewardship of the property.









2021 CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGNS & GRANTS

In 2021, Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA promoted three crowdfunding campaigns to support the specific restoration goals initiated by partners at Camp Virsoleil, Camp Hotlum, and Camp Contour Lines. We are proud to collaborate with each camp to support the realization of their vision for restoration and support pathways for the ERC community to support direct on-the-ground regeneration initiatives, even for those who are unable to be on site.

CAMP VIRSOLEIL, FRANCE

"La Grange" Barn Renovation - \$6,745 Raised



At Camp Virsoleil, funds were used to initiate Phase I of a multiphase barn renovation that can now be used to hold workshops, accommodate campers, and share restoration techniques with a wider audience, effectively creating "the heart" of their educational and group experiences. With the funds, building materials, tools, and a tree tent were purchased to support upcoming restoration events and campers. Virsoleil also installed a hot/cold outdoor shower for visitors near the pond. This project is part of an integrated, five-year plan for restoration at the camp, which includes creating a community kitchen and establishing a rainwater harvesting system. Learn more at www.virsoleil.org.



CAMP HOTLUM USA

Post-Fire Relief Grant - \$7,133 Raised



The funds from this grant allowed Hotlum EcoRegeneration Camp to respond to fire and flood events by transitioning to mobile restoration activities. The purchase of a cargo trailer provides ample room for tools and supplies, and a Tepui tent offers sleeping quarters for volunteers as well as a meeting and cooking space in inclement weather. As a result of this support, Hotlum was able to attend dryland permaculture trainings with Global Earth Repair and Treetop Permaculture, collaborate on events with local organizations, including EcoCamp Coyote and the Central Coast Prescribed Burn Association, and meet with numerous area and federal officials to discuss the impacts of the Lava Fire.

With their new equipment, Hotlum is continuing restoration work and wishes to become an example for reintroducing traditional fire frequency in drying landscapes around the world.

CAMP CONTOUR LINES GUATEMALA

Women's Food Forests - \$7,163 Raised

Agroforestry technicians with Contour Lines worked with women's savings groups in the communities of Socela and Chinabenke to establish food forests with more than 2,300 perennial trees and plants for home consumption and sale in local markets. The project seeks to strengthen indigenous women's leadership and economic autonomy while increasing tree cover, biodiversity, and soil health. This collaborative fundraiser was led by the International Women's Convocation in partnership with Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA.

Many families prefer trees that are commonly known, and have potential in local markets, such as orange, mandarin, and lime, as well as others like rambutan, cacao and avocado. Smaller and faster-producing fruits like plantain and pineapple are also integrated into the planting to ensure a faster return while the fruit trees mature. With funding from an additional partner, Contour Lines expanded their programming in these two communities to include a total of 48 families. Learn more about Contour Lines' agroforestry programs in more than 50 communities across Guatemala at www.contourlines.org.



COORDINATOR SPOTLIGHT

The people who lead the on-site work at camps in the ERC network are deeply committed to fostering a thriving local ecology and creating opportunities for others to participate in the transition to a restored relationship between humans and place.

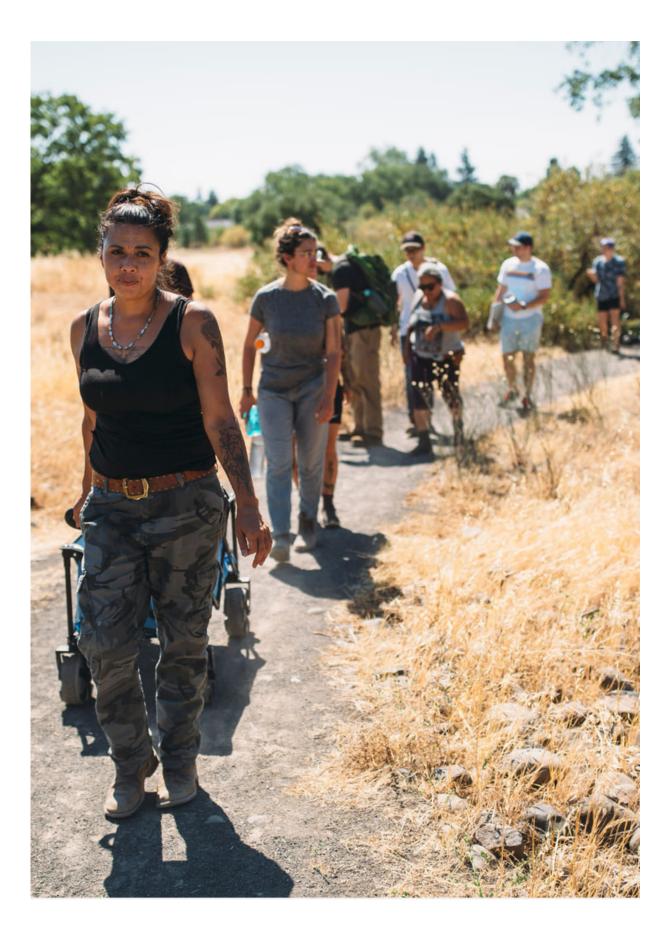
TERYL & CLAUDIA CHAPEL

Claudia and Teryl Chapel took over ownership of the Virsoleil farm in May 2019. They named it Virsoleil and joined ERC to become the first camp in France in the Spring of 2020.

Claudia, who was born in France, grew up in and around New York and enjoyed multiple careers as a dancer and a sports performance muscular therapist. Teryl grew up in California and enjoyed multiple careers as a carpenter, massage therapist, and permaculture designer with a master's degree in Integrative Eco-Social Design. Together they are passionate about restoring their farm, preserving rural French traditions while building local relationships, and creating opportunities for people to learn regenerative skills while reconnecting with nature.







RESTORATION IN ACTION THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Despite the many challenges of 2021, largely in the form of more frequent fires and floods, and in the midst of the continued uncertainties brought by the pandemic, camps around the world continued their restoration work with renewed dedication. These initiatives demonstrated their resiliency by developing local community relationships and highlighting the importance of indigenous knowledge for land-based restoration work.

Community is a core value of Ecosystem Restoration Camps. This year, the importance of community was shown as camps worked to create engaging and accessible gathering spaces for hands-on restoration learning and action. From native plant walks, to fire-risk reduction through traditional prescribed burns, to partnering with indigenous leaders on restoration work, the camps self-initiated a variety of opportunities to engage with local communities, and to bring Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to the forefront of local restoration activities.

WILD-TENDING PLANT WALKS

By Janeva Sorenson, Director of Camp Fire Restoration Project

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) refers to the generations of observations, learning, and wisdom that indigenous peoples have about their lands and ecosystems. Camp Fire Restoration Project partnered with T.E.K. Chico to facilitate monthly TEK wildtending plant walks and strengthen collaboration between the partner organizations. Walks are led by Ali Meders-Knight, a local Mechoopda Tribal member and Master Traditional Ecological Practitioner, and Raphael DiGenova, a native plant expert. The walks are hosted at Verbena Fields, a 10-year indigenous-led restoration project, and give participants a monthly opportunity to learn about TEK and their local ecosystem, native plants and their cycles throughout the year, and how we can be better stewards of these plants and these lands.







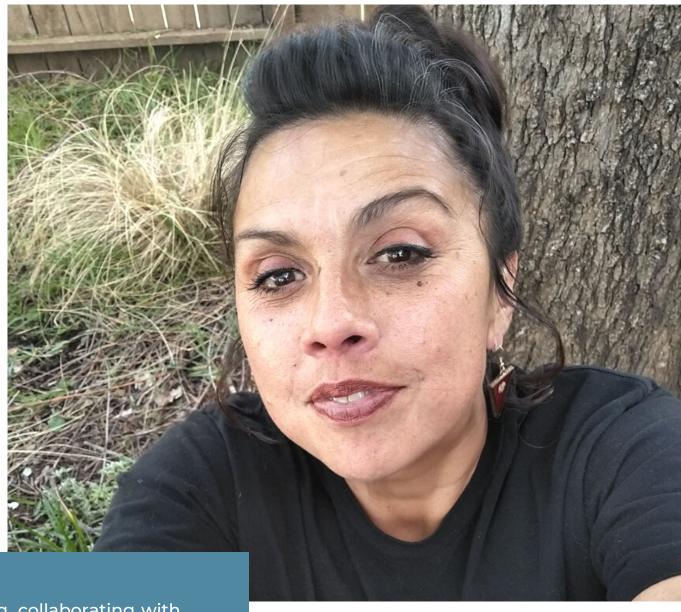
When you have a relationship with a plant or habitat, you are more likely to protect it.



WILD-TENDING PLANT WALKS (CONT.)

According to the TEK framework, developing a relationship with the non-human world is critical to being better stewards and relatives to our ecosystem. Humans have not always had a destructive and extractive relationship with our planet. The monthly walk allows participants to learn about local keystone species and their uses and roles in the ecosystem, identify what species look like in their different seasons and cycles, understand how to support and propagate them, and ultimately how to support their habitat and survival in the same way they support human habitat and survival. When you have a relationship with a plant or habitat, you are more likely to protect it. This walk gives ordinary people an opportunity to build their relationship with these important species, become stewards of our ecosystem, and improve the relationships we have with our natural world.

In addition to making wildtending plant walks available to their local community, the team at Camp Paradise developed an educational poster detailing the native plants local to the Sacramento River watershed to encourage even more community learning.



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Ali has been a TEK practitioner for over 20 years, creating, collaborating with, and leading decolonized environmental education and land restoration projects with Chico State University and the City of Chico. In 2009, she envisioned and helped to manifest a unique 17-acre interactive food forest and interpretive park in North Chico known as Verbena Fields.

This restoration of a small slice of degraded watershed and its native plants works to heal land while educating the larger human community about the rich ecological heritage of the Mechoopda people.

Shared from CultivatingPlace.com

ALI MEDERS-KNIGHT

Mechoopda Tribal Member

Master Traditional Ecological

Knowledge Practitioner





In an effort to provide a deeper experience and education on restoration and TEK, EcoCamp Coyote hosted a weekend event for community members to have direct access to restoration learning and action. Engaging partnerships is crucial in ecosystem restoration initiatives, and EcoCamp Coyote showed what a partnership approach can accomplish in this three-day event. Developing strong collaborative relationships with other organizations allows camps to create a greater impact and emphasize different strengths.

66

Indigenous people
have used fire
as a method for
supporting ecosystems
since time immemorial.



By Leo Lauchere, Camp Coordinator at EcoCamp Coyote

The three-day event, organized by a coalition of partners with EcoCamp Coyote, Indian Canyon, and Sudden Oak Life, hosted 65 participants at Indian Canyon - sacred and sovereign lands of the Ohlone/Costanoan people. Kanyon Sayers-Roods led traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) workshops which were complemented by Lee Klinger's hands-on tree health and fire mimicry course. Participants learned about the importance of this work, especially in the Indian Canyon area which carries high fire risk.



INDIGENOUS-LED FIRE MANAGEMENT (CONT.)

Kanyon Sayers-Roods, namesake of Indian Canyon, shared with participants her experience and perspectives surrounding colonialism and indigenous practices in the context of restoration work. She also led a traditional prayer circle around Sunday's morning campfire. Elder Ruth Orta joined the event to share her knowledge and experiences with processing acorns for food.

In addition to sessions with Sayers-Roods, participants engaged in a packed three-day program to explore concepts and hands-on practices of "fire mimicry" with Lee Klinger. Founder of Sudden Oak Life, Klinger explained that fire mimicry is a human-led activity to replicate some of the beneficial ecosystem processes that fire serves. Participants learned to clear brush and young bay trees (which transmit the organism that causes sudden oak death), apply minerals and compost tea to support healthy bark growth and forest immune support, identify sick trees and apply appropriate treatments, and how and why to remove excess moss and lichen from trees.



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Kanyon Sayers-Roods is an artist, poet, published author, activist, student, indigenous protocol catalyst and teacher raised in Indian Canyon as a member of the Costanoan Chular Tribal Community. From her knowledge and experience as a lifelong Mutsun Ohlone tribal member and California Native TwoSpirit community member, she is active in the Indigenous Community.

"I am a creative artist ever-inspired by nature and the natural world. I make a difference in the lives of others by sharing my life experiences and knowledge about California Native Americans. I have the gift of communication, starting conversations around decolonization and indigenization, and challenge myself to utilize this gift to deliver powerfully effective messages for others. My personal mission, which I intend to carry out in my career, is to contribute toward the goal of global education with emphasis on promoting understanding of the relationship between humanity and the natural world."

Shared from KanyonKonsulting.com/coyotewoman

KANYON SAYERS-ROODS

Ohlone-Mutsun Tribal Member Indigenous Generalized Specialist





2021 EVENTS WITH PARTNERS

ERC USA celebrates the collaborations with partners during 2021 to strengthen the call to join restoration efforts near and far, and to expand this work with opportunities for learning and exchange. A few of these events are highlighted here.









Anticipatory Design for Camp Infrastructure. Virtual design workshop for camp coordinators led by Alchemy Center Design Agency.

The Great Work of our Time. Presentation by Erin Beasley for Green Drinks Brooklyn.

Creating a Fundraising Strategy. Virtual workshop led by Chris Gates of Camp Mainsprings.

Listening to the Land Together: Weaving Connection Among Indigenous Wisdom Keepers and Ecosystem Restoration Allies. This online symposium was organized by the California Cultural Competence Circle and hosted by Gregg Castro (t'rowt'raahl Salinan/rumsien-ramaytush Ohlone) to highlight the need for a collaborative approach between those who are eager to restore California's ecosystems and Indigenous communities who have a longstanding relationship with the land and an ongoing history of colonial violence and deep injustice. The presentations are available on the ERC Youtube page.

TAKING A REGENERATIVE VIEW: PHOTOGRAPHER JOEL CALDWELL

Expedition photographer and writer Joel Caldwell has spent the last ten years focused on telling conservation and environmental justice stories from around the world. In recent years, his focus has shifted to uplifting stories of ecosystem restoration and humanity's connection and place within nature, which has resulted in hundreds of restoration projects researched. In 2021, Joel teamed up with Ecosystem Restoration Camps to document the beautiful transformations in environments communities that occur when dedicated groups of people put earth restoration at the forefront. From photographing the work at Vía Orgánica in Guanajuato, Mexico, and their involvement with the Billion Agave Project, to spending time at three camps in California, Caldwell has become a champion for telling the stories of restoration and regeneration that the world desperately needs to hear.

Parts taken from JoelCaldwell.com





















Why is the visual aspect of photography so compelling in telling the stories of regenerative initiatives around the world? Visual storytelling can be a crucial component to expanding ecosystem restoration. It can inspire people who are hearing about restoration for the first time and it also documents the progress of regeneration and celebrates the dedicated restorers driving the movement. The honest stories of on-the-ground initiatives need to reach into the lives of everyday people so a new generation of restorers can join in and find their place for taking action.















Taking a Regenerative View: Photographer Joel Caldwell

Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA 2021













Taking a Regenerative View: Photographer Joel Caldwell

Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA 2021



PLANS FOR 2022



Support the camps

Maximize financial, technical, & capacity building support to promote leadership and self-sufficiency of camp partners



Get hands dirty

Involve youth, practitioners in hands-on restoration activities + events in the US



Share the story

Position US camps in local media and social media channels as go-to sites for restoration

Fundraising + Core Administration

Demonstrate best practices for financial & administrative management of ERC USA

Getting Involved

Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/ecorestorationUSA for information on upcoming volunteer events and restoration experiences.

Make a donation online at www.ecosystemrestorationcamps.org/usa or by check to Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA 4 Breck Drive, Leetsdale, PA 15056



2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION CAMPS USA INC STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY JANUARY - DECEMBER 2021

REVENUE	
DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS	
TOTAL REVENUE	

EXPENDITURES

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES \$ 56,282

CAMP SUPPORT SPENDING \$ 43,335

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$ 99.617

CARRYOVER TO 2022 BUDGET \$ 49,757



DEVENUE





\$43,335
CAMP SUPPORT
SPENDING



\$ 147,462

\$ 147,462

\$147,462 TOTAL DONATIONS

DONOR SUPPORT

From Ecosystem Restoration Camps USA, we are so thankful to the many individuals who supported our work in 2021, and especially our donors who showed the power of this network through the camp crowdfunding campaigns. Our partner sites in the US and around the world are leading the way to restore land through practical, transformational examples that meet local needs and priorities. We believe these efforts can be an inspiration and catalyst for rapid change to regenerative relationships between humans and the living world.

Thank you for your contributions to this work!

HONORING

Several donors dedicated their support in honor of a friend, family member or colleague, and we recognize your inspiration!

John Liu
Harry J. Keally
Cynthia Coate-Ray
Anne Bumgarner
Claudia & Teryl Chapel
Cathy Sears
Santiago Cortes
Gaby Chadowitz
Dari Dexheimer
Forest Hitt
Debbie Gross
John Dennis Liu
Milo Redwood
My relatives the trees

IN MEMORY

Thank you to the people who contributed in celebration of their loved one's legacy for ensuring healthy, thriving ecosystems for nature and people around the world.

Dorothy Kass
Monica Hodges
Richard Clayton Brown
Alvin D. Schwartz
Jessie Ryan Fisher
Bettye Beaver Allen
Norman Raymond Hartig
Gilles
Jessie Ryan Fisher
George Feuerschwenger
Dan Bindofer

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Ellen Farmer
Lee Gillespie-White
Elias Kohn
Karena Mahung
Dena Marshall
Page Thomas

BOOKKEEPING



Edge Accounting LLC
Glenroy Wood, Accounting Manager
Edge Accounting LLC offers
personalized bookkeeping,
accounting and payroll services.



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