



PROGRAM

# NATURE RESTORATION FORUM: REBUILDING CANADA

OCT. 29-30, 2025

MARRIOTT HOTEL, OTTAWA





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## Wednesday, Oct. 29 **PROGRAM**

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Welcome ceremony by a Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Elder and Knowledge Keeper
9:15 – 9:30 a.m.	Opening remarks by Megan Leslie, President & CEO, WWF-Canada
9:30 – 10:15 a.m.	In conversation: Reflections on restoration
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Federal leadership in nature restoration
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Coffee break
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Approaches to observing and understanding the benefits of restoration
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Keynote: Introduction to the SER Community
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch break

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

From seed to seed:  
A cyclical approach  
to restoration

Mistakes we've  
made: Learning  
from setbacks in  
restoration

The role of  
community-driven  
restoration

The link between  
restoration and the  
changing climate to  
build resilience

2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Coffee break
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Restoration programs supported by WWF-Canada
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Networking and refreshments

## Thursday, Oct. 30 **PROGRAM**

7:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Breakfast
8:45 – 9:10 a.m.	Announcement
9:10 – 9:20 a.m.	WWF-Canada's restoration approach
9:20 – 9:30 a.m.	Mission Restoration platform walk-through
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Leveraging funding for restoration
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Coffee break
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Co-designing a national restoration network: Shaping a story of hope through restoration
12:00 – 12:15 p.m.	Closing remarks



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Wednesday,  
Oct. 29

# MORNING

**8:00 - 9:00 A.M.**

*Cartier Room 2 foyer*

## REGISTRATION DESK OPEN

**9:00 - 9:30 A.M.**

*Cartier Room 2*

## OPENING PLENARY

Opening prayer, Fred McGregor, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Elder and Knowledge Keeper  
Welcome and opening remarks, Megan Leslie, President and CEO, WWF-Canada

**9:30 - 10:15 A.M.**

*Cartier Room 2*

## FIRESIDE CHAT

### Perspectives on restoration

This dialogue explores how restoration is understood, practiced and lived through an Indigenous perspective and an environmental NGO lens. The conversation invites participants to reflect on the relationships, responsibilities and shared values that shape restoration in Canada and how diverse approaches can guide collective action toward healing the land.

#### Speakers:

- Megan Leslie, President and CEO, WWF-Canada
- Rick Bailey, Councilor, Katzie First Nation

**10:15 - 10:30 A.M.**

*Cartier Room 2*

## PRESENTATION

### Federal leadership in nature restoration

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the federal government's role and commitments in advancing nature restoration. It will outline how restoration fits within Canada's policy agenda and highlight key programs and initiatives driving progress nationally and internationally.

#### Speaker:

- Christian Malouin, Manager, Domestic Biodiversity and Stewardship, Canadian Wildlife Service – Environment and Climate Change Canada

**10:30 - 11:00 A.M.**

*Cartier Room 2 foyer*

## COFFEE BREAK



**11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

*Cartier Room 2*

**PANEL**

**Approaches to observing and understanding the benefits of restoration**

To ensure restoration projects are maintained beyond a specific funding window, it's essential to build a connection with the benefiting community through monitoring and storytelling. This session will explore different approaches to observing benefits, and how to move beyond project-specific measures toward a more encompassing, lasting support for restoration in communities.

**Moderator:** James Casey, Senior Specialist, WWF-Canada

**Panelists:**

- Adam Subject, Lands Manager, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation
- Ashlee Prevost, Habitat Restoration Department Head, Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance
- Kristina Boerder, Lead Scientist, Community Eelgrass Restoration Initiative/Future of Marine Ecosystem lab, Biology Department, Dalhousie University
- Mike Wong, IUCN WCPA member; former Executive Director at Parks Canada (retired), Birds Canada Board member; CPAWS Board member
- Val Deziel, Director of Restoration Program, Forests Canada

**12:00 – 12:30 P.M.**

*Cartier Room 2*

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Introduction to the Society for Ecological Restoration community**

This session will introduce the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) to the restoration community. A representative from SER will share the resources, tools and publications the organization has developed to support practitioners, researchers, policymakers and community leaders in advancing restoration work.

Participants will learn about the opportunities and benefits of becoming a SER member — such as professional development, networking and access to global knowledge — and ways to get involved in SER's community of practice at national and regional levels.

**Speaker:** Line Rochefort, Chair of SER Chapter Relationship Committee (CRC)

Wednesday,  
Oct. 29

**AFTERNOON**

**12:30 – 1:30 P.M.**

*Cartier Room 2 foyer*

**LUNCH**





1:30 – 2:30 P.M.

## **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Please select one of the sessions below to attend. You will be asked about your preference during registration.

### **From seed to seed: A cyclical approach to restoration**

*Cartier Room 2  
– Blue group*

Ecological restoration projects may appear to begin on planting or seeding day, but long before that, the seeds needed to be sourced. Moreover, we can hope that a restored site could, as time passes, become a seed source itself. Thus, we find no beginning or end, but a never-ending cycle, a pattern familiar and repeated throughout ecology. In this session, experts will share different parts of this restoration cycle, touching on their work, their relationships with each other and how they see this wheel turning for generations into the future.

**Facilitator:** Ryan Godfrey, Senior Specialist, WWF-Canada

### **Mistakes we've made: Learning from setbacks in restoration**

*Cartier Room 2  
– Green group*

Failure and setbacks can be powerful opportunities for learning and growth. This workshop is designed as a safe and constructive space for participants to share challenges they've faced in past projects, reflect on how they've adapted and highlight lessons that can strengthen future efforts. By openly discussing what didn't work, we can foster collective problem-solving, deepen the shared knowledge of Canada's restoration community and build resilience.

Through small breakout discussions, participants will exchange stories, reflect on adaptive strategies and identify insights that can be carried forward. Breakout facilitators will then report back to the full group, helping weave together common themes and lessons learned across different contexts.

**Facilitator:** Paola Sanchez, Manager, WWF-Canada

### **The role of community-driven restoration**

*Cartier Room 2  
– Yellow group  
(Bilingual session)*

This session explores how local communities can play a leading role in funding and managing restoration projects, creating a sense of ownership and ensuring sustainable outcomes.

**Facilitator:** Kate Landry, Senior Manager, WWF-Canada

### **The link between restoration and the changing climate to build resilience**

*Cartier Room 2  
– Red group*

This discussion will be an opportunity to learn and exchange thoughts, ideas and experiences on how to incorporate climate change and future climate projections into restoration projects to build resilience.

**Facilitator:** Catherine Paquette, Specialist, WWF-Canada



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**2:30 - 3:00 P.M.**

*Cartier Room 2 foyer*

## COFFEE BREAK

**3:00 - 4:00 P.M.**

*Cartier Room 2*

## PRESENTATIONS

Restoration programs supported by WWF-Canada

This session will showcase four WWF-supported projects that are driving forward restoration efforts in diverse contexts. Project leads will share highlights of their work to date, including key achievements, restoration-related lessons and practical insights gained along the way. The discussion will focus on the elements that are most relevant for other restoration practitioners, providing valuable considerations and takeaways that can inform and strengthen the work of others engaged in restoration.

### Speakers:

- **Presenter 1:** Jessica Hutchinson, Executive Director, Redd Fish Restoration Society
- **Presenter 2:** Allyson Heustis, Executive Director, Nashwaak Watershed Association Inc.
- **Presenter 3:** Angela Kane, CEO, Secwepemcúl'ecw Restoration and Stewardship Society

**Facilitator:** Liz Hendriks, Vice-President, Restoration and Regeneration, WWF-Canada

**4:30 - 5:30 P.M.**

*Spin restaurant  
on the Ground Floor*

## NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENTS

As we close the first day of the Nature Restoration Forum, join us for an open networking session designed to foster connections within Canada's diverse restoration community. This informal space will offer participants the chance to meet colleagues from different regions and sectors, share experiences and spark new collaborations. Whether you're continuing a conversation from earlier in the day or making new introductions, this is an opportunity to strengthen relationships and build the collective energy that will carry us into day two of the forum.





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MARRIOTT HOTEL, OTTAWA

Thursday,  
Oct. 30

# MORNING

**7:30 - 8:45 A.M.**

*Cartier Room 2 foyer*

## BREAKFAST

**8:45 - 9:10 A.M.**

*Cartier Room 2*

## ANNOUNCEMENT

This very special session will mark the beginning of an exciting new chapter for WWF-Canada, opening the door to opportunities for collaboration, participation and collective impact. While details will be revealed during the announcement, participants will gain insight into how this initiative will create pathways for engagement in the months ahead and strengthen Canada's restoration movement.

**Presented by:** Megan Leslie, President and CEO, WWF-Canada

**9:10 - 9:20 A.M.**

*Cartier Room 2*

## PRESENTATION

### WWF-Canada's restoration approach

This session will introduce WWF-Canada's role in advancing restoration across the country, our 10-year Regenerate Canada plan, guiding principles and partnerships that drive collective progress toward ecosystem recovery.

**Presented by:** Liz Hendriks, Vice-President, Restoration and Regeneration, WWF-Canada

**9:20 - 9:30 A.M.**

*Cartier Room 2*

## PRESENTATION

### Mission Restoration platform walk-through

Discover WWF-Canada's Mission Restoration platform, a national initiative designed to connect, inspire and mobilize Canada's restoration community. This session will provide participants with a first look at how the platform works, including opportunities to join the network, contribute data and track restoration initiatives. By building a collective knowledge base, the platform will support the launch of new, ambitious projects, inspire investment and help advance Canada's commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Participants will learn how this tool can raise awareness, foster collaboration and strengthen knowledge exchange for the benefit of nature, climate and communities.

**Presented by:** Deandra Atmojo, Specialist, WWF-Canada



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**9:30 – 10:30 A.M.**

*Cartier Room 2*

## PANEL

### Leveraging funding for restoration

This session will explore the current landscape of funding for restoration work, including challenges and opportunities. The discussion will include strategies that can help build sustainable long-term investment for restoration and examples. We'll also look at how projects can engage and steward funders for ongoing impact.

**Moderator:** Kathrin Majic, Senior Vice-President, Development, WWF-Canada

#### Panelists:

- Jill Weaver, Director of Partnerships, ALUS
- Jim Shinkewski, Director of Grants and Community Programs, Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Mark Cullen, Chair of Trees for Life and Director of the Barrett Family Foundation

**10:30 – 10:45 A.M.**

*Cartier Room 2 foyer*

## COFFEE BREAK

**10:45 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

*Cartier Room 2*

## WORKSHOP

Co-designing a national restoration network: Shaping a story of hope through restoration

In this closing workshop, participants will be invited to imagine and co-design the foundations of a national restoration network. Together, we will explore how a network could support peer learning, foster collaboration and strengthen actionable knowledge exchange within Canada's restoration community. This interactive session will offer a space to shape a shared vision rooted in hope, partnership and collective impact for nature and people.

**Presented by:** Liz Hendriks, Vice-President, Restoration and Regeneration, WWF-Canada

**Facilitated by:** Barb Sweazey, President, Barb Sweazey Professional Services Inc.

**12:00 – 12:15 P.M.**

*Cartier Room 2*

## FINAL REFLECTIONS

Closing remarks, Mary MacDonald, Senior Vice-President & Chief Conservation Officer, WWF-Canada

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