

# Society for Ecological Restoration

## at The Ohio State University - Constitution



### *Article I - Name, Purpose, Goals, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization.*

**Section 1. Name:** Society for Ecological Restoration at The Ohio State University. This organization is registered as an established OSU student organization as well as a student association of the international Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) organization.

**Section 2. Purpose:** To facilitate conversation and collaboration among the OSU community and professionals working in the field of ecological restoration, and to promote awareness of ecological restoration and its purpose. To teach about and apply our knowledge and expertise to plan and execute restoration projects of our own and to assist in similar efforts within the community.

**Section 3. Goals:** To learn about and share knowledge of common practices in ecological restoration through discussions, interaction with local conservation organizations, community outreach, and application of restoration practices when relevant.

**Section 4. Non-Discrimination Policy:** The Society for Ecological Restoration at The Ohio State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, ethnicity, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

### *Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership.*

**Section 1. Membership:** Any currently-enrolled Ohio State students, faculty, alumni, and professionals interested in ecological restoration and furthering the mission of this organization may join. Voting membership is limited to members who have paid their annual dues. Members may join at any time.

### *Article III – Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers, filling of vacant offices.*

**Section 1. Removing non-executive members:** If a member conducts themselves in such a manner deemed detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization or is in violation of the Ohio State University Student Code of Conduct, they can be removed through a majority vote of the other voting membership or unanimous two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee with the consultation of the advisor.

**Section 2. Removing Executive members:** Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed for sufficient cause. Sufficient cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, conduct deemed detrimental to the best interests of the chapter, and failure to diligently perform the required duties of the office. Prior to a vote on the matter of removal of an elected officer, the chapter Executive Committee shall hold a formal hearing. The officer shall have the opportunity to personally appear at the formal

hearing or to be represented by counsel. The officer may present any defense to the charges before any action is taken. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the remaining members of the Executive Committee, excluding the officer in question, is necessary for removal. If a demonstrable conflict of interest exists that would prejudice the vote of another member of the Executive Committee, including any case in which the other individual is similarly charged with misconduct, that individual shall be recused from the vote following a unanimous decision by the remaining executives. Following the removal of an officer, the vacant seat shall be filled in accordance with Article III, section 3.

**Section 3. Filling vacant positions:** In the case of a vacancy in any elected position resulting from either resignation or removal of the former officer, the Executive Committee may immediately appoint an interim officer to temporarily fill the vacant position. The interim officer shall have the full powers of the office, however, a special election must be held within one month of the initial vacancy of any office. The newly elected officer will serve the remainder of the previous officer's term.

***Article IV - Organization Leadership: Titles, terms of office, type of selection, and duties of the leaders.***

**Section 1. Titles:** The organization will have four official officers: a president, treasurer, vice president and at least one restoration project manager. Additional officers may be elected if there is interest or need.

**Section 2. Terms:** Terms of office are 1 year each for any and all officer positions. A member may only be elected for a maximum of 4 terms to any office. Terms will run from the end of spring semester to the end of spring semester of the next year.

**Section 3. Officer election:** Elections for officers will be held before the end of April of each year for the officers to take office at the end of the respective spring semester. To be elected, a member must be nominated or self-nominate. Nominations and elections may be held in a formal meeting or through emailed surveys. Special elections shall be called for vacancies in any office, in accordance with Article III section 3. During the time between the term start of newly elected committee members and the end of the school year, new officers will be trained by the officers of the previous year, however, the newly elected members have no committee responsibilities until their term begins at the end of spring semester.

**Section 4: Duties of officers:** In general, all officers will be responsible for ensuring the chapter is in line with the goals outlined in Article I section 3. The President and Treasurer will be responsible to attend the mandatory student organization training provided by the OSU office of student activities in order to maintain the active club status of this organization.

**Section 4a: Duties of the President:** The President will be the primary committee member responsible for organizing and leading executive committee and all-member meetings, disseminating updates to the entire club via email,

corresponding with the faculty advisor(s) regarding the club, ensuring that all relevant and necessary tasks are being completed by the respective responsible person(s) or parties, and generally being aware of all club activities and pertinent information.

**Section 4b. Duties of the Treasurer:** The Treasurer will be the primary committee member responsible for seeking out, applying for, and/or obtaining funds from available sources (e.g. OSU Programming and Operating Funds, membership dues, etc.), organizing fundraising endeavors, collecting and saving receipts and invoices, paying the annual fee to SER by the end of September of the respective year, coordinating and leading fundraising/finance committee meetings, managing acquired funds in a responsible manner based on budgets established for appropriate expenditures, and working with the other officers, committees, and members to establish appropriate budgets for expenditures to meet the needs of the organization (at least 2 executive officers must approve the expenditure of any club funds). If the Secretary position is unfilled, the Treasurer will take on the duties of the Secretary.

**Section 4c. Duties of the Vice President:** The Vice President will be the direct assistant to the President in their duties (See Article IV section 4a). Additionally, the Vice President will be responsible for managing any social media the organization may have as well as manage student outreach/recruitment and collaborations with other organizations. This officer is also responsible for the designing and facilitating orders of promotional material such as stickers, shirts, or other merchandise.

**Section 4d. Duties of Restoration Project Managers:** Restoration Project Managers will be the primary committee members responsible for managing specific restoration projects. This includes preparing for and coordinating restoration activities at project sites and restoration committee meetings. The Restoration Project Manager is also responsible for data collection and providing preliminary education to event volunteers for their site. The Restoration Project Manager will oversee experimental design in collaboration with any other Restoration Project Managers and other committee members. One Restoration Project Manager should be elected for each major restoration project site that the organization is working on.

**Section 4e. Additional potential officers:** Examples of potential officers include a Restoration Project Research Manager,, Secretary, Social Media Chair, Collaborator Liaison, etc.

**Section 4e.1. Duties of the Restoration Project Research Manager:** The Restoration Project Research Manager will be the primary committee member responsible for data entry, analysis, summary, and effective dissemination of scientific findings to the public. The Restoration Project Research Manager will oversee experimental design in collaboration with the Restoration Project Manager.

**Section 4e.3. Duties of the Secretary:** The Secretary will be responsible for updating the membership email list as needed, taking notes (meeting minutes) during all meetings, booking rooms for meetings, updating and maintaining the organization of the club google drive and buckeyebox photo folder, debriefing events and creating post-event reports, organizing elections for the following year's officers, leading constitutional edits, and management of club email.

**Section 4f. Additional duties of the Executive Committee:** All officers will be responsible for reviewing any communication that will be posted to the entire club or general public prior to posting, attending committee and all-member meetings whenever possible, and effectively communicating club happenings and information with each other and the members of the club. Additional duties may be decided upon and assigned by the current officers.

***Article V - Executive Committee: Size and composition of the Committee.***

**Section 1. Size of Executive Committee:** The executive committee will contain at *least* four officers (see Article IV section 1).

**Section 2. Composition of Executive Committee:** The executive committee will be composed of the required four officers (see Article IV section 1) as well as any additional officers that the executive team and/or voting club members deem essential to the function of the club. The President and Treasurer positions must be held by students (graduate or undergraduate) who are currently attending the Ohio State University.

***Article VI - Standing Committees: Names, purposes, and composition.***

**Section 1. Creation of committees:** Standing Committees will be determined as needed and by interest through discussion in general meetings.

**Section 2. Restoration Committees:** Restoration Committees or Committee will be headed by Restoration Project Managers, who will be elected yearly. These committees or committee will meet as needed to plan restoration events and make decisions on how to best safely and effectively manage restoration projects. They will work with the fundraising committee in order to obtain necessary equipment for restoration events.

**Section 3. Fundraising Committee:** The Fundraising Committee will be led by the club Treasurer and will be responsible for planning fundraising events, providing input regarding budget management, seeking out and applying for funding from available sources, and deciding what to purchase as a club. They will also plan purchases for events when university funds are supplied.

***Article VII – Advisor(s) or Advisory Board: Qualification Criteria.***

**Section 1. Selecting an advisor:** Any faculty or staff member within The Ohio State University may be the advisor to the organization. The Executive Committee is responsible for seeking out qualified individuals and asking for their service in advising the organization. If the Executive Committee deems it necessary to have more than one advisor then they may seek out multiple faculty or staff members within The Ohio State University to serve as advisors.

**Section 2. Responsibility of advisor(s):** The responsibilities of the advisor(s) are to act in the best interest of the organization in accordance with Article I Section 2 and to ensure that the organization is not in violation of the constitution. However, the advisor(s) may not participate directly in the organization. The advisor(s) may attend any meetings of the organization but is not required. The advisor(s) are required to meet with at least one member of the Executive Committee at least once a year. If the advisor(s) would like to meet more frequently with the Executive Committee, then it is the responsibility of the advisor(s) to reach out and organize with the Executive Committee.

**Section 3. Advisor oversight:** If the advisor(s) feels the organization is in violation of the constitution, then the advisor(s) must schedule a meeting with the entire organization to outline the observed breaches in the constitution. If this happens more than once during the term of an officer, then the advisor(s) may enforce a recall election to replace the officer(s). The advisor, subsequent to meeting with the organization, may initiate recall elections to replace any or all officers of the organization. This recall election will not exclude the serving president, Vice President, or restoration project manager should they wish to run.

***Article VIII – Meetings of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency.***

**Section 1: Large group meetings:** The organization will hold a general meeting within the first month of each fall and spring semester. At the general meeting or through email in the following month, subsequent all-member meetings will be established for that semester. Meetings should begin with a reading of a land acknowledgement.

***Article IX – Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements.***

**Section 1. Proposing amendments:** Proposed amendments to the constitution will be brought to the organization's attention in writing either via email to all the members or in a meeting. A member wishing to propose an amendment to the constitution may submit the proposed amendments for comments. The proposed amendments must be disseminated to the club through email at least one week before a formal vote can be called at the next large group meeting.

**Section 2. Voting on amendments:** Voting to amend the constitution must occur in person, with at least 10 members, or 75% of current voting members attending - whichever number is less, with a quorum of 75% of the current voting membership.

**Section 3. Passing amendments:** In order for the amendment to pass, it must receive at least 66% support from all voting members. If the vote supports the proposal, then it will be

reviewed by the executive committee and either affirmed or vetoed. If the proposal is vetoed by the executive committee, then it may be voted on a second time. At least 10 members, or at this vote, 75% of current members - whichever is less - must be present, and at least 90% of voting members must vote to support the proposal in order for it to become an amendment. If a second vote occurs and fewer than 90% of members support the proposal, then it must be re-introduced according to Article IX Section 1.

***Article X – Method of Dissolution of Organization***

**Section 1. Criteria for Dissolution:** The organization may not be dissolved unless there are fewer than 4 active members. If there are fewer than 4 active members, the organization may face dissolution if no other members join within the academic term. If the organization has fewer than 4 members for the duration of an academic term, then it must dissolve itself.

**Section 2. Steps for Dissolution:** If the organization must be dissolved, then the assets and debts will be managed as follows: upon dissolution, any assets must be liquidated and donated to the School of Environment and Natural Resources, and any debts must be settled by the remaining members through any means they deem appropriate.