

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, Colorado 80203
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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Chris Sturm, Stream Restoration Coordinator
Steve Miller, Sr. Water Resource Specialist

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 20, July 17-18, 2012 Board Meeting
Watershed and Flood Protection Section and Interstate,
Federal, and Water Information Section, Revised
Criteria for the Tamarisk, Russian Olive, and other
Woody Riparian Invasive Species Control Program**

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

Background

The Tamarisk, Russian Olive, and other Woody Riparian Invasive Species Control Program (TRO) is designed to provide funding for the removal of woody riparian invasive species through integrated pest management (IPM). IPM is a strategy that focuses on invasive removal through a combination of techniques that may include biological, mechanical, and chemical control. TRO also incorporates funding for riparian re-vegetation/restoration after invasive removal. The first TRO guidance document and application was approved by the Board in January of 2009. In May of 2009, the Board approved a \$900,000 funding recommendation for 13 TRO projects.

Discussion

The attached revisions to the 2009 TRO guidance and application incorporate comments received from various persons/organizations involved in woody invasive removal, including those of CWCB staff. The revised TRO, aka TRO Round 2, requires a strong commitment to restoring riparian areas, and monitoring and maintenance is required for five years after project implementation. SB 12S-002 appropriates \$1,000,000 for TRO. Staff recommends that TRO Round 2 release \$500,000. The maximum grant request is \$100,000. Staff anticipates \$300,000 for a subsequent grant cycle in FY 2014. Remaining funds will be used for staff initiated studies, demonstration projects, and monitoring of existing projects. Staff also recommends \$50,000 for Youth Corps initiated projects in Agenda Item 21.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve the revised guidance and application for the Tamarisk, Russian Olive, and other Woody Riparian Invasive Control Program.

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Tamarisk, Russian Olive, and other Woody Riparian
Invasive Species Control Program
Grant Application
Revised July 2012

The information below is a brief summary of what must be included in an application for funding from the Tamarisk, Russian Olive, and other Woody Riparian Invasive Species Control Program (TRO). Proposals shall address all sections listed below. **Please refer to the TRO Guidance document for complete descriptions and requirements for the grant application.** Proposals shall be no longer than 5 pages (*minimum 11 point font and 1 inch margins*), not including the summary sheet and attachments (e.g. maps).

SUBMITTAL INFORMATION

Completed applications are due by 5:00 pm on October 26, 2012.

Applications may be submitted electronically via email to
chris.sturm@state.co.us

Electronic applications on CD or DVD may be mailed to:
Colorado Water Conservation Board, ATTN: Chris Sturm
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Logistical questions about submitting applications should be directed to Chris Sturm (303-866-3441, ext. 3236 or chris.sturm@state.co.us).

The entire application must be submitted as one file, e.g. word .doc/.docx or .pdf. Files larger than 8mb cannot be received via email. Larger files should be mailed to the address above.

Please read the application guidance document for information regarding eligible applicants, basic applicant qualifications, and descriptions of evaluation criteria.

1.0 PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Please include the following on the summary sheet:

Project Title

Project Sponsor(s) (identify the fiscal agent if different from the project sponsor)
Contact person name, email address, and phone number

Cooperating Partners

Project Location – list counties, watersheds and nearest communities.

Grant Request/Amount

Cash Match Funding

In-kind Match Funding

Acres Treated

Total Acres, % Private Land, % Federal Land, % State Land, % Other Lands
(describe other)

Estimated Completion Date

Brief description of the project

Photos of the proposed area to be treated. Please include photos of channel banks.

- 2.0 BASIC APPLICATION CRITERIA** (failure to meet any of these elements will result in rejection of the application). Please describe how the project complies with the basic criteria. See the TRO Guidance Document for more details.

Describe the plan to control TRO in priority infested areas through “integrated pest management” (IPM). Please reference “Tamarisk Best Management Practices in Colorado Watersheds” for more information regarding management strategies and techniques, including IPM. (Nissen, Scott; Sher, Anna; Norton, Andrew; Tamarisk Best Management Practices in Colorado Watersheds, Colorado State University et al)

Describe a plan for secondary/subsequent weed control post TRO removal.

Describe the restoration and re-vegetation plan. Treatment sites on disconnected floodplains associated with incised channels require a plan that ensures long term channel stability. Active re-vegetation with native plants is preferred over passive re-vegetation. Passive re-vegetation plans will be considered if sufficient justification is provided as to how the approach will be effective. Please reference “Best Management Practices for Revegetation after Tamarisk Removal in the Upper Colorado River Basin” for more information regarding restoration strategies. (Sher, Anna; Lair, Ken; DePrenger-Levin, Michelle; Dohrenwend, Kara; Best Management Practices for Revegetation after Tamarisk Removal in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Denver Botanic Gardens 2010.)

Describe the long term monitoring and maintenance plan. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Tamarisk Coalition to develop a monitoring plan that is compatible with existing monitoring strategies.

Applications will be scored based on the evaluation criteria in 3.0 – 4.0 below:

3.0 ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY

- 3.1 Identify the lead project sponsor and describe the other stakeholders' level of participation and involvement. 10 points
- 3.2 What is the applicant organization's history of accomplishments in the watershed? Provide several past project examples. List partner organizations and agencies with which applicant worked to implement past projects. 10 points
- 3.3 What information is the project sponsor using to develop the proposed plan or project? Include any relevant information regarding existing State approved TRO control plans, watershed plans, geomorphic assessments, flood studies, riparian conditions assessments, aquatic/terrestrial habitat conditions, wildlife studies, and/or river restoration reports. 10 points
- 3.4 What level of staffing will be directed toward the implementation of the proposed project/planning effort? Discuss the number of staff and amount of time dedicated for the project. Will volunteers be utilized, and if so, how? Will the project utilize labor from the Colorado Youth Corps or similar non-profit organization? Include brief resumes for each member of the active project team. 10 points
- 3.5 Specify in-kind services and cash contributions (match) amount for the proposed activities. The applicant must provide at least 50% match of the project's total cost. Discuss whether other funding sources are secured or pending. 10 points
- 3.6 Does the project incorporate an education component that increases public awareness of TRO issues? 5 points

4.0 EFFECTIVENESS OF PROJECT

- 4.1 Demonstrate that the principles of integrated pest management (biocontrol, chemical, mechanical, etc.) are well utilized. Describe how the chosen control methods are most appropriate for the specific project area. How does the chosen control method(s) and subsequent restoration plan minimize the likelihood of re-infestation of TRO and secondary weeds? 20 points
- 4.2 Demonstrate that the project budget and schedule are realistic. Consider time required to obtain permits, i.e. 404 dredge/fill, county floodplain permits, herbicide application, NEPA, etc. 10 points
- 4.3 Discuss the multi-objective aspects of the project and how they relate to TRO control. Describe similar activities in the watershed and how this project complements but does not duplicate those activities. Multi objectives may include (but are not limited to) channel stabilization, riparian re-vegetation, habitat

improvement, recreation opportunity enhancement, natural hazard reduction, flood mitigation, and water supply delivery improvement. 15 points

5.0 ATTACHMENTS – Please complete the attached scope of work template. Other documents may be attached to the application in order to support the request for funding. These may include:

- Letters of support from other entities and letters of financial commitment
- Detailed map of the project area
- Detailed project budget and schedule
- Pertinent still photos

Scope of Work

GRANTEE and FISCAL AGENT (if different)

PRIMARY CONTACT

ADDRESS

PHONE

PROJECT NAME

GRANT AMOUNT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Provide a brief description of the project. (Please limit to half a page)

OBJECTIVES

List the objectives of the project. Please include objectives for all aspects of the project whether funded by the CWCB or not

TASKS

Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format. Detailed descriptions are only required for CWCB funded tasks. Other tasks should be identified but do not require details beyond a brief description.

TASK 1 – [Name]

Description of Task

Method/Procedure

Deliverable

TASK 2 – [Name]

Description of Task

Method/Procedure

Deliverable

REPEAT FOR TASK 3, TASK 4, TAKE 5, ETC.

REPORTING AND FINAL DELIVERABLE

Reporting: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of the executed contract. The progress report shall describe the completion or partial completion of the tasks identified in the statement of work including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Deliverable: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how the project was completed. This report may contain photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Tamarisk, Russian Olive, and other Woody Riparian
Invasive Species Control Program
Grant Guidance
Revised July 2012

I. Background

A. Introduction

The purpose of this Guidance and Procedures is to establish and describe the criteria and competitive process for the issuance and administration of grants from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (“Board” or “CWCB”) for the Tamarisk, Russian Olive, and other Woody Riparian Invasive Species (TRO) Control Program. The Board is the state executive branch agency responsible for state water policy and planning. The Board’s mission is to conserve, develop, protect, and manage Colorado’s water for present and future generations. Its major programs include Watershed & Flood Protection, Water Supply Planning; Finance; Stream and Lake Protection; and Intrastate & Federal. Targeted control of invasive phreatophytes and riparian restoration meets the objectives of many of these programs and is consistent with the Board’s overall mission. More information about the CWCB and its sections can be found at <http://cwcb.state.co.us>.

B. History

This grant program is intended to provide cost share assistance to eligible entities to control and/or eradicate Tamarisk (also known as salt cedar), Russian Olive, or other woody riparian invasive phreatophytes that have degraded the state’s riparian areas, restricted channel capacity thereby increasing flood risk, and resulted in increased non-beneficial consumptive use of water. The CWCB has had substantial involvement in developing a well planned strategy to solve Colorado’s TRO problem. In 2003 then Governor Owens issued Executive Order D002-03 which directed the Colorado Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) and the Colorado Department of Agriculture (“CDA”), and any other state agency “... to take measures necessary to eradicate tamarisk on public lands within 10 years ... (and to) submit a report ... outlining a viable plan”. In January 2004 DNR submitted the required plan to the Governor's office and it was accepted. The plan recommended a local watershed based approach to TRO control, with the state providing technical assistance and coordination. The CWCB took on this challenge for DNR and has been moving ahead. In 2006 and 2007 CWCB funded a statewide mapping and inventorying of TRO infestations. In 2007 the *Colorado Headwaters Invasives Partnership* (CHIP) plan was completed for the Colorado, Gunnison, and Dolores rivers and endorsed by Governor Ritter. Currently, companion plans for the Arkansas, Purgatoire, Republican, South Platte, White, San Juan, and Yampa rivers are in various stages of completion. All are being completed utilizing, in part, the prior mapping work and other grants for technical assistance from the CWCB. On Oct. 11, 2006 the President signed the *Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act, PL 109-320*. Sponsors included Rep. Udall and Rep. Salazar, and Sen. Allard and Sen. Salazar. The Act authorizes federal matching funds for large-scale demonstration projects which Colorado entities hope to access if and when those funds are appropriated.

C. Authorization

Senate Bill 12S-002, proposed to the 2012 Colorado General Assembly, appropriates funding for a phreatophyte control cost sharing program.

SB 12S-002, SECTION 7. Phreatophyte control cost-sharing program - appropriation. (1) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the Colorado water conservation board construction fund not otherwise appropriated, to the department of natural resources, for allocation to the Colorado water conservation board, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, the sum of \$1,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the board to continue financing phreatophyte control cost-sharing grants through any of the board's existing programs.
(2) The moneys appropriated in subsection (1) of this section remain available for the designated purposes until they are fully expended.

II. Grant Approval Criteria

A. Competitive Process

The Board will select the projects to fund totaling **\$500,000** from those applicants best meeting the basic application (II.B.) and evaluation criteria (III. A.-B.). The Board reserves the right to negotiate with successful applicants to modify the scope and/or budget of their projects to better meet CWCB objectives and fund availability. A minimum of four member evaluation team consisting of a CWCB staff member, a Colorado Department of Agriculture staff member, a Tamarisk Coalition representative, and an environmental or volunteer organization representative, will review the applications and provide a set of recommended projects to the Board. **The CWCB will review and consider those recommendations and make final project selections at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.**

B. Basic Application Criteria

Failure to meet any of these elements will result in rejection of the application. Please describe how the project complies with the basic criteria.

Describe the plan to control TRO in priority infested areas through “integrated pest management” (IPM). Please reference “Tamarisk Best Management Practices in Colorado Watersheds” for more information regarding management strategies and techniques, including IPM. (Nissen, Scott; Sher, Anna; Norton, Andrew; Tamarisk Best Management Practices in Colorado Watersheds. Colorado State University et al)

Describe a plan for secondary/subsequent weed control post TRO removal.

Describe the restoration and re-vegetation plan. Treatment sites on disconnected floodplains associated with incised channels require a plan that ensures long term channel stability. Active re-vegetation with native plants is preferred over passive re-vegetation. Passive re-vegetation plans will be considered if sufficient justification is provided as to how the approach will be

effective. Please reference “Best Management Practices for Revegetation after Tamarisk Removal in the Upper Colorado River Basin” for more information regarding restoration strategies. (Sher, Anna; Lair, Ken; DePrenger-Levin, Michelle; Dohrenwend, Kara; Best Management Practices for Revegetation after Tamarisk Removal in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Denver Botanic Gardens 2010.)

Describe the long term monitoring and maintenance plan. Monitoring of project effectiveness shall continue beyond project completion for a minimum of five years. Development of a monitoring plan, including a budget item for monitoring, must be included as part of each application. An annual monitoring letter report shall be provided to the CWCB each year for a minimum of five years after project completion. The reasonable estimated costs of monitoring during the initial five year period will be credited as a component of the applicant’s matching fund obligation at project closeout and final payment. Maintenance of restored areas shall continue for a minimum of five years beyond project completion. A maintenance plan will be developed and included as part of each funded project. The reasonable estimated costs of maintenance during the initial five year period will be credited as a component of the applicant’s matching fund obligation closeout and final payment.

C. Multi-Objective TRO Control Projects

Projects that meet the mandatory criteria described above and that can integrate other objectives that contribute to restoring ecological processes and protecting life and property will be given a higher funding priority. Multi-objective TRO control projects may include one or more of the following elements:

- Restore stream channel capacity and reduce flood hazards
- Provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species
- Intensive restoration of riparian areas
- Reduce erosion
- Improve water quality
- Enhance recreational access
- Protect water quality by complying with the “Forestry Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality in Colorado 2010”. This publication can be found at:
<http://csfs.colostate.edu/pdfs/ForestryBMP-CO-2010.pdf>

D. Eligible Entities

Local governments, conservation and water conservancy districts, weed management districts, established non-profit organizations, and Colorado’s two Ute Tribes are eligible. Private landowners, state and federal agencies are not eligible to receive grant funds, however projects may be conducted on private, state, or federal lands with appropriate permissions and under the sponsorship of an eligible entity. Partnership projects that include treatment of private lands and which cross jurisdictional boundaries in a coordinated manner to promote a comprehensive watershed approach are encouraged.

Applicants should demonstrate:

A commitment to collaborative approaches that involves locally and/or regionally based diverse interests within the watershed in question,

Consideration was given to all interested persons in the watershed,
There is a broad based involvement in and/or support for the grant application from relevant local, state, or federal governmental entities,
There is an ability to provide the appropriate in-kind or cash match for the activities proposed.

Applicants must have the capacity to enter into a contract with the State of Colorado and be able to furnish a valid federal taxpayer ID number.

Applicants are responsible for determining their ability to accept grant funds from the CWCB pursuant to any limitations established by the TABOR Amendment (Taxpayer Bill of Rights) and any other relevant laws.

CWCB staff may initiate studies or demonstration projects utilizing up to 25% of the annually authorized TRO funding amount.

CWCB may reserve 10% of the annually authorized TRO funding for monitoring and evaluation of existing projects.

E. Project Size and Duration

Projects must be completed within three years of the grant award. No single project and/or entity will receive more than \$100,000 per grant cycle. No project requesting less than \$10,000 will be considered. **In no case will the CWCB pay for work accomplished prior to State Controller approval of a valid purchase document.** As explained below, limited credit against the 50% minimum matching funds requirement may be met by activities performed in the six month period prior to the application deadline.

F. Mandatory Cost Share

Projects will be funded by the CWCB on a cost-share basis.
CWCB funds may not exceed 50% of the total cost of each individual project.

CWCB funds should be leveraged to the maximum extent possible to take full advantage of other local, private or federal funding sources

Project costs may consist of a combination of in-kind and cash match and no more than 50% of the 50% match may be in the form of in-kind services. Overall a maximum of 25% of the total project cost, or 50% of the amount requested from the CWCB, may be provided as in-kind services.

Cash Match: Actual expenditures paid directly with cash funds from the grantee to a vendor. Examples are supplies, services, and necessary equipment purchase or rental.

In-Kind Match: Services and labor provided by the paid staff of the grantee to perform all or part of the approved project scope of work, including necessary project administration. This can include standard direct and indirect personnel fringe benefits. Volunteer services provided at no cost to the applicant by firms or individuals consistent with the approved scope of work will be valued for in-kind match at local prevailing wage rates. Project specific

land acquisition or access agreement costs may also be claimed as in-kind contributions and credited against the 50% minimum requirement. Costs that CAN NOT be considered include: general organization operating costs such as utilities, operating supplies and services, amortized costs or rental costs for buildings and equipment used for the general operation of the organization, and general property and liability insurance costs, nor will overhead per cent charges to cover such items be allowed. These business expenses are NOT reimbursable costs and may not be claimed as matching contributions.

G. Application Submittal and Format

Applications must be submitted electronically meeting the following format requirements: font size: minimum 11 pt., margins: 1 inch maximum; number of pages: 5 (excluding summary sheet, maps and attachments). Applications may be emailed to chris.sturm@state.co.us. Applications exceeding 8mb in size should be mailed on CD or DVD to Chris Sturm, 1313 Sherman St., Rm 721 Denver, Co 80211. The entire application, including attachments, should be submitted as one file, e.g. word .doc/.docx or adobe .pdf format.

The application must include:

Detailed map of the project area showing relevant watercourses, major land owners, infested areas and areas to be treated at a suitable scale.

Detailed project budget, including matching fund sources, and provisions for ongoing monitoring and maintenance. The budget will form the basis for a grant agreement with the CWCB and the structure for future invoices.

Project schedule demonstrating ability to complete all funded activities within 3 years. At a minimum all control and re-vegetation work must be completed and monitoring and maintenance programs in place prior to final payment.

Letters of commitment from any entity identified as providing matching funds, allowing access to private property, or otherwise contributing to the essential feasibility of the proposed project.

III. Grant Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be scored based on the evaluation criteria below:

A. Organizational Capability

Identify the lead project sponsor and describe the other stakeholders' level of participation and involvement. 10 points

What is the applicant organization's history of accomplishments in the watershed? Provide several past project examples. List partner organizations and agencies with which applicant worked to implement past projects. 10 points

What information is the project sponsor using to develop the proposed plan or project? Include any relevant information regarding existing State approved TRO control plans, watershed plans, geomorphic assessments, flood studies, riparian conditions assessments, aquatic/terrestrial habitat conditions, wildlife studies, and/or river restoration reports. 10 points

What level of staffing will be directed toward the implementation of the proposed project/planning effort? Discuss the number of staff and amount of time dedicated for the project. Will volunteers be utilized, and if so, how? Will the project utilize labor from the Colorado Youth Corps or similar non-profit organization? Include brief resumes for each member of the active project team. 10 points

Specify in-kind services and cash contributions (match) amount for the proposed activities. The applicant must provide at least 50% match of the project's total cost. Discuss whether other funding sources are secured or pending. 10 points

Does the project incorporate an education component that increases public awareness of TRO issues? 5 points

B. Effectiveness of the Project

Demonstrate that the principles of integrated pest management (biocontrol, chemical, mechanical, etc.) are well utilized. Describe how the chosen control methods are most appropriate for the specific project area. How does the chosen control method(s) and subsequent restoration plan minimize the likelihood of re-infestation of TRO and secondary weeds? 20 points

Demonstrate that the project budget and schedule are realistic. Consider time required to obtain permits, i.e. 404 dredge/fill, county floodplain permits, herbicide application, NEPA, etc. 10 points

Discuss the multi-objective aspects of the project and how they relate to TRO control. Describe similar activities in the watershed and how this project complements but does not duplicate those activities. Multi objectives may include (but are not limited to) channel stabilization, riparian re-vegetation, habitat improvement, recreation opportunity enhancement, natural hazard reduction, flood mitigation, and water supply delivery improvement. 15 points

IV. Grant Program Administration

A. Application Timeline

The timeline for the grant application cycle is:

Applications available:	August 1, 2012
Deadline to submit applications:	October 26, 2012
Applications reviewed and ranked:	December 21, 2012

Board selects projects for funding
Grants awarded:
Progress reports due:

January 16, 2013
January 31, 2013
Every six months after notice to proceed

B. Contact Information

Interested parties are strongly encouraged to call the CWCB to discuss potential applications.
For more information please contact:

Chris Sturm

Stream Restoration Coordinator, Colorado Water Conservation Board

1313 Sherman St., Rm 721.

Denver, Co 80203

303 866 3441, ext. 3236

chris.sturm@state.co.us

C. Payment Procedure

The CWCB will make periodic payments no more often than monthly. All payments will be based on invoices for work completed and must include an accounting for the required matching funds applied during the invoice period. Eligible reimbursable expenses shall be limited to those items and rates in the approved budget which will be made a part of the grant contract between the applicant and the CWCB. Invoices must include supporting documentation justifying expenses, e.g. contractor invoices, timesheets, etc.

Ten percent of the total grant award will be withheld until submittal of a final report.