



HB 15-1006: Invasive Phreatophyte Control Program Annual Report

May 2016



Weld County Youth Corps Members Removing Russian Olive Along the Sheep Draw Trail in Greeley

**To the House of Representatives Committee on
Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources and the
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy**

Background

The CWCB has had substantial involvement in developing a well planned strategy to solve Colorado's invasive phreatophyte 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 invasive phreatophyte 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 invasive phreatophyte 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. In September 2012 the Colorado Water Conservation Board approved the Invasive Phreatophyte Control Program (Program).

Overview

The CWCB created a [Guidance Document](#) for the Program approved in July of 2015 that served as a basis for the applicants to build their projects around. Some of the criteria included at least a 25% match, and at least 5 years of monitoring and reporting to ensure project success. The CWCB hired the Tamarisk Coalition for \$85,000 to assist with the Program in terms of mapping, technical assistance for applicants, and assisting the CWCB in project management tasks such as application and progress report review. CWCB and the Tamarisk Coalition hosted a [Webinar](#) to help answer any questions potential Applicants might have regarding their projects and the Application Process. Applications were made available in August of 2015, and awards were announced in January of 2016. There were 20 applicants for this round of funding for a total ask of \$3.7 million. CWCB created a

Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Deposits

House Bill 15-1006 allocated \$2 Million for Fiscal Year 2015/2016, and Fiscal Year 2016/2017, for a total of \$4 Million for the Tier II Severance Tax Invasive Phreatophyte Control Program. These funds were deposited in three installments and were adjusted based on the available Severance Tax and projections for the rest of the year.

Total Deposits for FY 15/16:

July 2015: \$800,000

January 2016: \$420,718

April 2016: \$600,000

Total Deposits: \$1,820,718

review committee to determine project funding that consisted of CWCB staff, the Colorado Department of Agriculture, and the Tamarisk Coalition. Projects were ranked based on the accepted Guidance Document and Application form provided by the CWCB.

Unfortunately funds from Severance Tax only allowed partial funding for 18 of the projects, all of which were only granted a percentage of their initial ask (Table 1).

Accomplishments

As of the time of this report, all of the available funds have been awarded to 18 projects across the State. ... out of the 18 funded projects have started work under the Program. The first progress report is expected in July from the Tamarisk Coalition for their Desert Rivers Collaborative project.

CWCB Staff continues to work with the Applicants to get the projects contracted and under way as soon as possible.

Observations

The high total ask and the geographic diversity of the funded projects for this round of funding demonstrate that not only are invasive phreatophytes a statewide issue, but that this

Table 1: 2015 IPCP Program Applicants, initial ask, match, and awarded funds

Applicant	Project Name	Project Location (Basin)	Grant Request	Awarded Funding	Cash Match	In-Kind Match
Tamarisk Coalition	Desert Rivers Collaborative	Colorado	\$221,710.00	\$200,000.00	\$174,665.00	\$87,200.00
Mountain Studies Institute	Animas River Removal and Replacement of Invasive Phreatophytes	Southwest	\$222,850.00	\$195,000.00	\$91,150.00	\$138,688.00
Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	St Vrain & Boulder Creek Phreatophyte Control & Watershed Restoration	South Platte	\$128,895.00	\$100,000.00	\$125,500.00	\$204,149.00
Weld County Weed Division	Tamarisk and Russian Olive Tree Eradication on the South Platte River and Tributaries in Weld County	South Platte	\$300,000.00	\$195,000.00	\$52,596.00	\$81,444.00
Conservation Legacy and Southwest Conservation Corps	Dolores River Restoration Partnership Riparian Restoration Projects along the Dolores River & Dissappointment Creek in Southwestern Colorado	Southwest	\$289,280.00	\$185,000.00	\$337,500.00	\$127,334.00
Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River Conservation District	Puratoire River Watershed Riparian Rehabilitation Project, Phase III	Arkansas	\$300,000.00	\$170,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$100,000.00
Huerfano County	Farasita/Badito	Arkansas	\$68,000.00	\$38,000.00	\$44,000.00	\$23,000.00
Montrose County	San Miguel Watershed Phreatophyte Control Project	Southwest	\$300,000.00	\$140,000.00	\$182,612.00	\$45,534.00
Uncompahgre Partnership	Controlling Russian olive along two priority stretches of the Gunnison River	Gunnison	\$200,213.00	\$85,000.00	\$25,180.00	\$82,250.00
Yuma County Pest Control District	Republican River Restoration Program	South Platte	\$300,000.00	\$74,000.00	\$93,000.00	\$13,233.00
Funding Awards Contingent on Severance Tax Deposits						
Yuma County Pest Control District	Republican River Restoration Program	South Platte	\$300,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$93,000.00	\$13,233.00
Lower White River Pest Control	Lower White River Pest District Phreatophyte Control Project	Yampa/White/Green	\$300,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$102,500.00	\$14,700.00
Fremont Conservation District	Rainbow Park and Portland Plant Riparian Restoration Project	Arkansas	\$300,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$37,500.00	\$37,500.00
Synergy Ecological Restoration, Inc.	Invasive Phreatophyte Removal, Replacement, and Research Pilot Project	South Platte	\$60,272.50	\$18,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$23,176.50
Baca County Conservation District	BCCD IPCP 2016	Arkansas	\$83,500.00	\$25,000.00	\$12,500.00	\$18,888.00
Larimer County Weed District	T.R.E.E	South Platte	\$300,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$50,168.00	\$52,560.00
CYCA	2016 Youth Corps Invasive Species Projects	South Platte	\$82,250.00	\$25,000.00	\$41,873.32	\$23,085.75
Lathrop State Park	Lathrop State Park Russian Olive Removal	Arkansas	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$1,875.00	\$31,996.00
Colorado Canyons Association	Invasive Phreatophyte Control on the Lower Colorado River	Colorado	\$149,420.00	\$25,000.00	\$24,903.00	\$24,903.00
Larimer County Weed District	CYO Swift Ponds Phreatophyte Control Program	South Platte	\$19,530.32	\$0.00	\$37,500.00	\$10,000.00
East Otero Conservation District	Swink to La Junta Phase One	Arkansas	\$94,000.00	\$0.00	\$42,000.00	\$0.00
Totals*:			\$3,734,920.82	\$1,730,582.00	\$1,488,522.32	\$1,129,641.25

*Match Totals only include match from projects that were awarded IPCP funds

program will have a positive statewide impact (Figure 1).

The large amount of match dollars for the Program also shows that each of the applicants is invested in the success of their projects. On average, the Program was able to leverage \$1.77 in match for every Program dollar.

Funding Summary

Though HB 15-1006 awarded \$2 Million for FY 15-16 and FY 16-17, Severance Tax projections showed that the CWCB would only be able to award

\$1,483,000.00 through the Program as of January 2016. Due to this low projection, at the time awards were decided applicants were split into two categories based on their application scores, one category was going to be funded immediately based on the funds that were already deposited as of January, 2016, and the other category were projects that would be awarded funding contingent on a deposit from Severance Tax equal to the projection (Table 1). Thankfully, the CWCB received more funds than initially projected and was able to award funds to the contingent projects, and provide additional funds to the higher

scoring projects. The total award for the Program for FY 15-16 is \$1,730,582.00, with the addition of the \$85,000 for the Tamarisk Coalition there is a total encumbrance of \$1,815,582.00. Given that this is a Tier II Program and current Severance Tax projections, it is not likely the program will be refreshed for FY 16-17.

As this is a cost share program, match from the applicants is vital to the success of each project. Through this program, the CWCB was able to leverage \$1,488,522.32 in cash match, and \$1,129,641.25 in in-kind match from the 18 funded projects (Table 1).



COLORADO

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