



**COLORADO**

**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Erik Skeie, Program Associate  
Interstate, Federal and Water Information Section

**DATE:** May 23-24, 2018 Board Meeting

**AGENDA ITEM:** 13. Invasive Phreatophyte Control Program Update

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**This is an informational item only, no action is needed.**

### **Background**

The CWCB has had substantial involvement in developing a comprehensive state 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 in 2004 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 has managed this program on behalf of DNR ever since. In 2006 and 2007 CWCB funded a statewide effort to map and inventory invasive phreatophyte infestations. In 2007 the Colorado Headwaters Invasives Partnership (CHIP) plan was completed for the Colorado, Gunnison, and Dolores rivers and was 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 of the plans integrate elements of the prior mapping work and other grants for technical assistance from the CWCB.

In September 2012 the CWCB Board approved the Invasive Phreatophyte Control Program (Program). The most recent funding came from House Bill 16-1006, which allocated \$2 million for fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, for a total of \$4 million. However, due to lower Severance Tax during those fiscal years, only \$1,820,718 in additional funds were deposited under this bill.

The CWCB has awarded a total of \$1,899,370 to 23 different projects across the state since HB 16-1006 was signed (Table 1). These funds also allowed the CWCB to hire RiversEdge West to provide technical support for the most recent iteration of the program.



**Table 1: IPCP awards since HB16-1006**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Basin</b>	<b>TOTAL AWARD</b>
Purgatoire River Watershed Riparian Rehabilitation Project, Phase III	Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River Conservation District	Arkansas	<b>\$170,000.00</b>
Farasita/Badito	Huerfano County	Arkansas	<b>\$38,000.00</b>
Rainbow Park and Portland Plant Riparian Restoration Project	Fremont Conservation District	Arkansas	<b>\$80,000.00</b>
BCCD IPCP 2016	Baca County Conservation District	Arkansas	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
Lathrop State Park Russian Olive Removal	Lathrop State Park	Arkansas	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Drake Power Plant and Pikes Peak Greenway Riparian Restoration	Colorado Springs Utilities	Arkansas	<b>\$35,000.00</b>
Desert Rivers Collaborative	RiversEdge West	Colorado	<b>\$200,000.00</b>
Russian Olive Removal and Habitat Improvements on the Lower Colorado River	Colorado Youth Corps Association	Colorado	<b>\$30,510.00</b>
Invasive Phreatophyte Control on the Lower Colorado River	Colorado Canyons Association	Colorado	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
Invasive Phreatophyte Control on the Lower Colorado River: Continuation	Colorado Canyons Association	Colorado	<b>\$29,360.00</b>
Controlling Russian olive along two priority stretches of the Gunnison River	Uncompahgre Partnership	Gunnison	<b>\$85,000.00</b>
St Vrain & Boulder Creek Phreatophyte Control & Watershed Restoration	Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	South Platte	<b>\$100,000.00</b>
TRO Eradication on the South Platte River and Tributaries in Weld County	Weld County Weed Division	South Platte	<b>\$195,000.00</b>
Republican River Restoration Program	Yuma County Pest Control District	South Platte	<b>\$95,000.00</b>
T.R.E.E	Larimer County Weed District	South Platte	<b>\$65,000.00</b>
2016 Youth Corps Invasive Species Projects	Colorado Youth Corps Association	South Platte	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
Animas River Removal and Replacement of Invasive Phreatophytes	Mountain Studies Institute	Southwest	<b>\$195,000.00</b>
DRRP Restoration Projects along Dolores & Disappointment Creek in SW CO	Conservation Legacy and Southwest Conservation Corps	Southwest	<b>\$185,000.00</b>
San Miguel Watershed Phreatophyte Control Project	Montrose County	Southwest	<b>\$140,000.00</b>
IPCP Technical Assistance, South Platte Basin	RiversEdge West	Statewide	<b>\$86,500.00</b>
Annual Conference	RiversEdge West	Statewide	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Lower White River Pest District Phreatophyte Control Project	Lower White River Pest Control	Yampa/White /Green	<b>\$85,000.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$1,899,370</b>