



Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant – Statement of Work – Exhibit A

Statement Of Work

Prepared Date:	4/26/23
Name of Grantee:	RiversEdge West
Name of Water Project:	Uncompahgre and White River Riparian Restoration Project
Funding Source:	Water Plan - Watershed Health and Recreation

Water Project Overview:

This project will enhance fish and wildlife habitat, protect water quality, and improve recreational and agricultural river uses on 19 acres of public and private riparian lands along two miles of the White River, Yellow Creek, and Uncompahgre River. Restoration work will be accomplished through the removal of invasive tamarisk, Russian olive, and other noxious weeds from the riparian zone and replacing them with diverse native plant species.

The Uncompahgre River, White River and Yellow Creek provide habitat for endangered and state-listed fish and amphibian species as well as economically important trout fisheries. The riparian corridors provide habitat and migratory routes for game and other wildlife. Agricultural and recreational uses of these rivers serve as the foundation of local communities' socioeconomic well-being. Invasive plants like tamarisk and Russian olive degrade these rivers in myriad ways along with the ecological and societal benefits that they provide.

This collaborative project engages youth conservation corps, community volunteers, private landowners, local contractors, federal agencies, local government, and non-profit groups to enhance riparian zones across land ownership boundaries and improve overall watershed health.

Project Objectives:



Uncompahgre River

Objective 1) 8 acres of improved habitat along 1.3 river miles of the Uncompahgre River through the removal of tamarisk, Russian olive, and other noxious weeds and subsequent revegetation with native plant species.

Objective 2) 20 or more young adults trained in riparian ecology and land management job skills through partnering with a conservation corps.

Objective 3) Community involvement through 4 volunteer events.

Objective 4) Enhanced communication and cooperation between the City of Montrose, private businesses, local citizens and other interested stakeholders.

Objective 5) Riparian restoration treatment and monitoring data that is available to partners and to the public.

White River

Objective 1) 9 acres of improved riparian habitat on public and private land along 2,900 feet of riverbank on the White River through the removal of tamarisk, Russian olive, and other noxious weeds subsequent revegetation with native plant species.

Objective 2) 2 acres of improved riparian habitat on public land along 600 feet of riverbank of Yellow Creek through the removal of tamarisk, Russian olive, and other noxious weeds.

Objective 3) 32 or more young adults trained in riparian ecology and land management job skills through partnering with a conservation corps.

Objective 4) Enhanced communication and cooperation between federal land management and neighboring private landowners, working across management boundaries.

Objective 5) Riparian restoration treatment and monitoring data that is available to the White River Partnership partners and to the public.

Tasks

Task 1 – Coordination, Monitoring, Mapping – Uncompahgre River

Description of Task:

RiversEdge West will work to develop plans and timelines for each site and coordinate with local partners while also managing contractors and crews. RiversEdge West will collect baseline data in treatment areas before any work is completed and follow-up with post treatment data collection. RiversEdge West will establish a basic online geodatabase for the project and train conservation corps in use of this data collection. This data will be instrumental in projecting future project needs, treatment strategies, and project successes.

Method/Procedure:



RiversEdge West will coordinate with partners through email and phone calls and perform site visits to create site-specific plans and timelines. RiversEdge West will coordinate with contractors and conservation corps to communicate project needs and ensure the crews have adequate support. RiversEdge West will collaborate with crews to document site conditions before treatment using RiversEdge West's monitoring protocols. This data will list percent cover of native vs. non-native species and needs for treatments or revegetation. After the first season of treatments, in coordination with partners, RiversEdge West will monitor treatment progress and map treated areas. This data will be used to identify site maintenance needs (such as retreatment and/or active revegetation) during year 2, after the initial treatments occur. RiversEdge West will work with partners to develop lists of native and desirable species and revegetation methods in areas where monitoring shows a lack of native plant regrowth and a need for active revegetation. REW will coordinate the purchase of native plant materials. REW will coordinate with partners to establish mapping and data needs and create an appropriate and accessible geodatabase. Crews /contractors or RiversEdge West staff will map treatment areas through GPS and integrate information into RiversEdge West's geodatabase.

Deliverable:

- 1) Site-specific restoration plans, including treatment schedule and labor/equipment needs for each project site.
- 2) Baseline vegetation, treatment progress, and post-treatment monitoring data that identifies the follow-up treatment needs to maintain project trajectory.
- 3) Treatment data, monitoring data, and maps that are available to partners and other stakeholders via an online geodatabase.

Tasks

Task 2- Implementation and Maintenance - Uncompahgre River

Description of Task:

RiversEdge West will contract with conservation corps and/or local contractors to organize and implement invasive species removal. RiversEdge West will also work with volunteer leaders and volunteer groups to organize and run revegetation events.

Method/Procedure:



RiversEdge West will work with Western Colorado Conservation Corps and/or contractors to implement restoration treatments.

Invasive plant removal will use three methods:

Cut-stump method: This method involves cutting the tree near flush to the ground and applying herbicide to the stump. This method removes wildfire fuels and opens up space for native plant regeneration.

Frill-Cutting method: Frill-cutting involves cutting through the cambium layer of the tree and applying herbicide to the exposed areas. This method leaves the invasive trees as standing dead. This method is faster and more efficient than the cut-stump method and leaves some canopy cover for wildlife and shade. It will be used can only be used where the standing dead trees do not pose a risk to wildfire spread, infrastructure, or people.

Basal bark/foliar spray applies herbicide to invasive plant's bark or leaves using a backpack or handheld sprayer and will be used for secondary weeds, target species resprouts, and smaller infestations that can be spot sprayed.

Native plant revegetation will consist of hand seeding, pole planting, and/or container stock planting depending on site conditions.

Deliverable:

- 1) Complete Tamarisk Russian Olive removal and additional habitat improvements along 1.3 river miles of the Uncompahgre River, enhancing 8 acres of riparian habitat.
- 2) 20 or more young adults trained in riparian ecology and land management job skills through partnering with a conservation corps.
- 3) Collaborate with local volunteers to complete two volunteer events yearly for a total of 4 volunteer events.



Tasks
Task 3 – Coordination, Monitoring, Mapping – White River
Description of Task:
RiversEdge West will coordinate with partners to develop plans and timelines for each site and communicate project needs to contractors and/or conservation corps. RiversEdge West will coordinate the collection of baseline, treatment progress, and post-treatment monitoring data and make it available to partners and the public through the White River Partnership online geodatabase. RiversEdge West will use this data to identify second year project needs such as retreatment of invasive plants and/or active revegetation.
Method/Procedure:
<p>Prior to restoration actions, RiversEdge West will coordinate with partners through site visits, email, and phone calls to develop site-specific plans and vegetation treatment schedules for each restoration site. RiversEdge West will coordinate with contractors and conservation corps to communicate project needs and ensure that they have the labor and equipment needed to meet project goals.</p> <p>Before restoration treatments begin, RiversEdge West will conduct site visits to document baseline vegetation using RiversEdge West’s monitoring protocols in order to track restoration success.</p> <p>After the first season of treatments, RiversEdge West, in coordination with partners, will monitor treatment progress and map treated areas. This data will be used to identify site maintenance needs (such as retreatment and/or active revegetation) during year 2, after the initial treatments occur.</p> <p>RiversEdge West will work with partners to develop lists of native and desirable species and revegetation methods in areas where monitoring shows a lack of native plant regrowth and a need for active revegetation. REW will coordinate the purchase of native plant materials.</p>
Data will be stored as shapefiles in the White River Partnership’s geodatabase so that it is available to partners for reference as well as to keep track of restoration progress and vegetation changes throughout the White River basin.
Deliverable:



- 1) Site-specific restoration plans, including treatment schedule and labor/equipment needs for each project site.
- 2) Baseline vegetation, treatment progress, and post-treatment monitoring data that identifies the follow-up treatment needs to maintain project trajectory.
- 3) Treatment data, monitoring data, and maps that are available to partners and other stakeholders via an online geodatabase.

Tasks

Task 4 – Implementation and Maintenance – White River

Description of Task:

RiversEdge West will contract with and oversee conservation corps and/or private contractors to implement invasive species removal and/or active revegetation.

Method/Procedure:

RiversEdge West will work with Western Colorado Conservation Corps or similar and/or contractors to implement restoration treatments utilizing Best Management Practices.

Restoration treatments will include removal of tamarisk, Russian olive, and other invasive plants as well as revegetation with native plants as determined by the monitoring data completed after initial invasive plant removal. RiversEdge West staff will conduct site visits to oversee and support the contractor and conservation corps crews.

Invasive plant removal will use three methods:

Cut-stump method: This method involves cutting the tree near flush to the ground and applying herbicide to the stump. This method removes wildfire fuels and opens up space for native plant regeneration.

Frill-Cutting method: Frill-cutting involves cutting through the cambium layer of the tree and applying herbicide to the exposed areas. This method leaves the invasive trees as standing dead. This method is faster and more efficient than the cut-stump method and leaves some canopy cover for wildlife and shade. It will be used can only be used where the standing dead trees do not pose a risk to wildfire spread, infrastructure, or people.

Basal bark/foliar spray applies herbicide to invasive plant's bark or leaves using a backpack or handheld sprayer and will be used for secondary weeds, target species resprouts, and smaller infestations that can be spot sprayed.

Native plant revegetation will consist of hand seeding, pole planting, and/or container stock planting depending on site conditions.

Deliverable:

- 1) 9 acres of improved riparian habitat along 2,900 feet of river front on private and public land on the main stem of the White River
- 2) 2 acres of improved riparian habitat along 600 feet of river front along Yellow Creek
- 3) 32 or more young adults trained in riparian ecology and land management job skills through partnering with a conservation corps.



Budget and Schedule

This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined Budget and Schedule that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work.

Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status 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 Report: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

The CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

Payment

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and must include invoices for all work completed. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by task, an estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire Project in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues, and proposed or implemented corrective actions.

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this contract are not reimbursable. The last 10% of the entire grant will be paid out when the final deliverable has been received. All products, data and information developed as a result of this contract must be provided as part of the project documentation.

Performance Measures

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

(a) Performance standards and evaluation: Grantee will produce detailed deliverables for each task as specified. Grantee shall maintain receipts for all project expenses and documentation of the minimum in-kind contributions (if applicable) per the budget in Exhibit C. Per Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per Grant Guidelines full documentation of project progress must be submitted with each invoice for reimbursement. Grantee must confirm that all grant conditions have been complied with on each invoice. In addition, per Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.



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(c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each Progress Report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary.

(d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the Grant Agreement.