

**Water Supply Reserve Fund
Water Activity Summary Sheet
September 19, 2018
Agenda Item 12(i)**

Applicant & Grantee: RiversEdge West

Water Activity Name: Dolores River Restoration Partnership Maintenance and Monitoring

Water Activity Purpose: Environmental Implementation

Counties: Dolores, San Miguel, Montrose

Drainage Basin: Dolores

Water Source: Dolores River

Amount Requested: \$25,000 Southwest Basin Account

Matching Funds: Applicant Match (cash & in-kind) = \$26,700

- 107% of the basin request (meets 25% min)
- 51.6% of the total project cost of \$51,700

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Southwest Basin Account to fund the project titled: Dolores River Restoration Partnership Maintenance and Monitoring.
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Water Activity Summary: WSRF grant funds, if approved, will assist the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) in: (1) an active revegetation volunteer project with the Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) at the boat ramp out of Bedrock, CO and (2) restoration site monitoring (i.e., Rapid Monitoring) within the Tres Rios BLM Field Office. WSRF funding will be used to pay for the WRV volunteer group, project supplies (i.e., containerized plants, caging materials) associated with the volunteer project, four weeks of a Conservation Corps 2-person monitoring strike team, and project coordination cost associated with the two activities. The WRV volunteer group will engage 20 volunteers and cover 10 acres of active revegetation. The Rapid Monitoring will cover 300 acres.

For the last nine years, the DRRP has worked to remove tamarisk on 1,900 acres of the river to improve riparian habitat and restore the overall health of the watershed. To date, 1,849 acres have received initial treatment. Two key components of this project are carrying out active restoration on key sites to ensure native plants replace invasives and monitoring treated sites to treat for tamarisk resprouts and secondary weeds, which can easily dominate a site if unmanaged. These activities comprise the water activity in this project and are integral to the long-term success of this project

Discussion: As described in the Southwest Roundtable (SWBRT) chair's recommendation letter, this project was supported and recommended for approval on July 11, 2018. The project addresses Colorado's Water Plan goal 6.6 to restore riparian dependent plant communities, benefits to boating and the recreational economy and improved resiliency in a critical environmental and recreational area most often referred to as the "lower Dolores River." This work will also additional objectives

ranging from enhanced habitat and water quality to community engagement and education. The improvement of the Bedrock boat ramp through active revegetation will help increase recreational and aesthetic value, encouraging recreationists to visit and enjoy the river. Local jobs for young adults are created through the conservation corps strike team programs, which aligns with the DRRP goal to help foster the next generation of environmental stewards. Rapid monitoring helps the DRRP determine restoration success on sites previously treated for tamarisk and other noxious weeds and is a crucial part of the DRRP's adaptive management strategy to determine effectiveness of treatments/activities and improve upon restoration practices.

Issues/Additional Needs: No additional needs have been identified.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components.

Evaluation Criteria: Staff has determined this activity satisfies the Evaluation Criteria.

Funding Summary / Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-Kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
Walton Family Foundation	\$8,800	\$0	\$8,800
Southwest Conservation Corps BLM Assistance Agreement	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Wildland Restoration Volunteers	\$0	\$7,900	\$7,900
WSRF Southwest Basin Account	\$25,000	n/a	\$25,000
Totals	\$43,800	\$7,900	\$51,700

CWCB Project Manager: Megan Holcomb

SOUTHWEST BASINS ROUNDTABLE

Michael Preston, Chair

c/o Dolores Water Conservancy District

P.O. Box 1150

Cortez, Colorado 81321

970-565-7562

July 24, 2018

Megan Holcomb

Water Supply Management Section

Colorado Water Conservation Board

1580 Logan Street, Suite 600

Denver, Colorado 80203

SUBJECT: Dolores River Restoration Partnership Maintenance and Monitoring,
RiversEdge West - \$25,000 from Southwest Basin Fund

Dear Ms. Holcomb:

The Southwest Basin Roundtable approved funding of \$25,000 from the Basin Fund for the Dolores River Restoration Partnership Maintenance and Monitoring requested by RiversEdge West. The application was considered in detail at the July 11, 2018 meeting of the Southwest Basin Roundtable. There was a quorum of Roundtable members present.

This project addresses Colorado Water Plan Goal 6.6: Environmental And Recreational Projects and Methods including: restoration of riparian dependent plant communities, benefits to boating and the recreational economy, improved resiliency of self-sustaining fisheries and riparian habitat and restoration in what is a critical environmental and recreational area most often referred to as the "lower Dolores River."

The project also addresses Southwest Basin Implementation Plan Goal D.1. "Maintain and enhance recreational and economic values of local and statewide economies derived from recreational water uses . . .", Goal E2: Protect, maintain, monitor and improve the condition and natural function . . . to support native species and functional habitat in the long term, and adapt to changing conditions."

Phreatophyte removal along the lower Dolores River has been a sustained effort over a long period of time. What is exciting about this project is that the focus of RiversEdge has moved beyond removal to the monitoring and revegetation phase of restoration, bringing a very ambitious goal closer to fruition.

The completed Grant Application will be forwarded directly to you by the applicant. Please contact the applicant directly or me at 970-565-7562, mpreston@frontier.net, if you have questions or wish to discuss this application in more detail.

Sincerely,



Michael Preston

Southwest Basin Roundtable Chair



Last Update: August 3, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application

Instructions

All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current [2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#).

To receive funding from the WSRF, a proposed water activity must be approved by a Roundtable(s) **AND** the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for Roundtable consideration and recommendation is outlined in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. The CWCB meets bimonthly according to the schedule on page 2 of this application.

If you have questions, please contact the current CWCB staff Roundtable liaison:

Arkansas

Ben Wade
ben.wade@state.co.us
303-866-3441 x3238

Gunnison | North Platte | South Platte | Yampa/White

Craig Godbout
craig.godbout@state.co.us
303-866-3441 x3210

Colorado | Metro | Rio Grande | Southwest

Megan Holcomb
megan.holcomb@state.co.us
303-866-3441 x3222

WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)

X	I acknowledge this request for funding was recommended for CWCB approval by the sponsoring Basin Roundtable(s).
X	I acknowledge I have read and understand the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines .
X	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract . ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit A	
	Statement of Work ⁽²⁾ (Word – see Exhibit A Template)
	Budget & Schedule ⁽²⁾ (Excel Spreadsheet – see Exhibit A Template)
	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽²⁾
Exhibit C	
	Map ⁽²⁾
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
	Letters of Support
	Certificate of Insurance ⁽³⁾ (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.)
Contracting Documents	
	Certificate of Good Standing ⁽³⁾
	W-9 ⁽³⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽³⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
	Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form ⁽³⁾

(1) Click "Grant Agreements". For reference only/do not fill out or submit/required for contracting

(2) Required with application if applicable.

(3) Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.

Last Update: August 3, 2017

Schedule		
CWCB Meeting	Application Submittal Dates	Type of Request
January	December 1	Basin Account; BIP
March	February 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
May	April 1	Basin Account; BIP
July	June 1	Basin Account; BIP
September	August 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
November	October 1	Basin Account/BIP

Desired Timeline	
Desired CWCB Hearing Month:	July
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	September

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	RiversEdge West	
Name of Water Activity	Dolores River Restoration Partnership Maintenance and Monitoring	
Approving Roundtable(s)	Basin Account Request(s) ⁽¹⁾	
Southwest Basin Roundtable	\$25,000	
Basin Account Request Subtotal	\$25,000	
Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾	\$	
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)	\$25,000	
Total Project Costs	\$51,700	

(1) Please indicate the amount recommended for approval by the Roundtable(s)



Last Update: August 3, 2017

Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	RiversEdge West
Mailing Address	244 N. 7 th Ave, Grand Junction, Co 81501
FEIN	27-0007315
Grantee's Organization Contact ⁽¹⁾	Rusty Lloyd
Position/Title	Executive Director (Interim)
Email	rlloyd@riversedgewest.org
Phone	(970) 256-7400
Grant Management Contact ⁽²⁾	Kristen Jespersen
Position/Title	Funding Program Coordinator
Email	kjespersen@riversedgewest.org
Phone	(970) 846-0102
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	

(1) Person with signatory authority

(2) Person responsible for creating reimbursement invoices (Invoice for Services) and corresponding with CWCB staff.

Description of Grantee
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
RiversEdge West (REW) – formerly Tamarisk Coalition- is a 501c(3) nonprofit based in Grand Junction, Colorado, that was founded to help combat tamarisk, a non-native invasive plant species that causes significant environmental degradation to riparian habitats/river corridors. Since its inception in 2002, REW has worked with local collaborative, grassroots partnerships to manage invasive plants and restore river systems throughout the Southwest. REW's role is to: 1) develop and connect partnerships with the resources, methods, and solutions necessary to restoring riparian landscapes; 2) foster communication, assist with problem solving, and refine restoration approaches to maximize sustainable impacts; and 3) advance funding, research, technology, and educational opportunities that benefit riparian restoration.



Last Update: August 3, 2017

Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	Public (Government): municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
	Public (Districts): authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises
	Private Incorporated: mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations
	Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors: are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
X	Non-governmental organizations: broadly, any organization that is not part of the government
	Covered Entity: as defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes

Type of Water Activity (check one)	
	Study
X	Implementation

Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)		
X	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)	
	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)	
	Agricultural	
	Municipal/Industrial	
	Needs Assessment	
	Education & Outreach	
	Other	Explain:

Location of Water Activity	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	Dolores, San Miguel, Montrose
Latitude	38.303539
Longitude	-108.894009

Last Update: August 3, 2017

Water Activity Overview

Please provide a summary of the proposed water activity (200 words or less). Include a description of the activity and what the WSRF funding will be used for specifically (e.g. studies, permitting, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the activity. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, area of habitat improvements. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain. The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule.

For the last nine years the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) has been working to remove tamarisk on 1,900 acres of the river to improve riparian habitat and restore the overall health of the watershed. To date, 1,849.3 acres have received initial treatment. Two key components of this project are carrying out active restoration on key sites to ensure native plants replace invasives and monitoring treated sites to treat for tamarisk resprouts and secondary weeds, which can easily dominate a site if unmanaged. These activities comprise the water activity in this grant and are integral to the long-term success of this project.

Measurable Results

To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRF funds please provide any of the following values.

	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)
310 acres	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved
	Other Explain:

Last Update: August 3, 2017

Water Activity Justification

Provide a description of how this water activity supports the goals of [Colorado's Water Plan](#), the most recent [Statewide Water Supply Initiative](#), and the respective [Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan](#) ⁽¹⁾. The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers).

For applications that include a request for funds from the Statewide Account, the proposed water activity shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan criteria for state support (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;) (Also listed pp. 4-5 in [2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#)).

According to Section 6.6 of the Colorado Water Plan "the policy of the State of Colorado is to identify and implement environmental and recreational projects and methods to achieve the following statewide long-term goals:

- Promote restoration, recovery, sustainability, and resiliency of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic- and riparian-dependent species and plant communities.
- Protect and enhance economic values to local and statewide economies that rely on environmental and recreational water uses, such as fishing, boating, waterfowl hunting, wildlife watching, camping, and hiking.
- Support the development of multipurpose projects and methods that benefit environmental and recreational water needs as well as water needs for communities or agriculture.
- Understand, protect, maintain, and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat to promote long-term sustainability and resiliency.
- Maintain watershed health by protecting or restoring watersheds that could affect critical infrastructure and/or environmental and recreational areas."

Additionally, the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan (SWBIP) reinforces the State Water Plan by stating that two of its key goals are to:

- "encourage and support restoration, recovery, and sustainability of endangered, threatened, and imperiled aquatic and riparian dependent species and plant communities;" and
- "protect, maintain, monitor and improve the condition and natural function of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries, and to support native species and functional habitat in the long term, and adapt to changing conditions."

The work of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) directly advances the policies and goals stated above by working to remove invasive plants and restore native fish and wildlife habitat along the imperiled Dolores River, which is identified as a proposed IPP in the SWBIP (ID# 20-DM). Invasive plants such as tamarisk and other aggressive weeds have taken over the Dolores River, displacing native plants, impairing wildlife and fish habitat and forage and diminishing access for recreation and land use as well as the health of the riparian areas that are integral to the health of all aquatic life.

The Dolores River is designated as a Bird Habitat Conservation Area by the Intermountain West Joint Venture, providing important habitat for a variety of resident and migratory bird species. Additionally, three Colorado State Species of Concern (the flannel mouth sucker, bluehead sucker, and roundtail chub) depend on the health of the Dolores River and healthy streamside vegetation. Beyond wildlife, the river corridor is prized for its scenic vistas, unique geology, archaeology, and history - more than 30 miles of the river is traced by the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway, with interpretive signage located along this river-side stretch of the highway. Historic land use such as grazing and ranching are still mainstays for many families that reside within the watershed. Finally, the river is valued for recreational opportunities, notably camping, hiking, hunting, and rafting.

Last Update: August 3, 2017

Water Activity Justification

A key goal of the DRRP is to increase the number of sustainable, healthy riparian and floodplain plant communities along 1,900 acres of riparian lands in the watershed while reducing tamarisk and other invasive, non-native plant species. Several ecological metrics (e.g. tamarisk will be reduced to less than 5 percent of the vegetation cover within riparian areas) not only provide important milestones for guiding restoration work, but also shape the monitoring protocols that track impacts of on-the-ground restoration work. Initial treatment (tamarisk removal) has been completed along 1,849.3 acres to date. In an effort to ensure the recovery of these treated sites and provide optimal conditions for native plant growth, DRRP follows rapid monitoring protocols and carries out site specific maintenance such as secondary weed treatment and revegetation. This proposal requests funding to carry out this work and to cover the associated cost of coordinating the volunteers and strike teams that will be on-the-ground.

(1) Access Basin Implementation Plans or Education Action Plans from Basin drop down menu.

Last Update: August 3, 2017

Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests	
Basin (only) Account grant requests require a 25% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the Applicant or 3 rd party and shall be accompanied by a letter of commitment as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines (submitted on the contributing entity's letterhead). Attach additional sheet if necessary.	
Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind)
Walton Family Foundation	\$8,800
Southwest Conservation Corps BLM Assistance Agreement	\$10,000
Wildland Restoration Volunteers In-kind: 20 volunteers, 320 hours total @ 24.69 per hour (Independent Sector – Estimated Value of Each Volunteer Hour: https://independentsector.org/value-of-volunteer-time-2018/)	\$7,900
Total Match	\$26,700
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.	

Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests	
Statewide Account grant requests require a 50% match as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. A minimum of 10% match shall be from Basin Account funds (cash only). A minimum of 10% match shall be provided by the applicant or 3 rd party (cash, in-kind, or combination). The remaining 30% of the required match may be provided from any other source (Basin, applicant, or 3 rd party) and shall be accompanied by a letter of commitment . Attach additional sheet if necessary.	
Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):
Total Match	\$
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).	

Last Update: August 3, 2017

Related Studies

Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

The work of the DRRP is guided by a scientifically rigorous restoration plan; the Dolores River Restoration Action Plan (DR-RAP), which outlines four shared goals: ecological, social, economic, and adaptive management. One of DR-RAP's guiding principles is to minimize harm to wildlife species. Through collaborative planning that engages partners with a variety of skills and professional backgrounds, use of best available science as well as best-management practices, the DRRP is ensuring the protection of a healthy, viable riparian corridor.

The DRRP Transition Plan for Monitoring and Maintenance outlines the activities that need to take place over the next five years (2015-2020) to ensure this project meets the goals set out in DR-RAP. This guiding document identifies prioritized actions needed (in terms of capacity, governance, funding, communications, and project monitoring and maintenance) to protect the investments in the Dolores River Watershed and continue building towards its shared goals in the next five years. As part of the Transition Plan, members of the DRRP are signing a new five-year MOU to confirm their commitment to the project and ensure the appropriate human and financial resources are procured to sustain the work of the partnership.

Previous CWCB Grants

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order

Please see attached spreadsheet.

Tax Payer Bill of Rights

The Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect the applicant.



Last Update: August 3, 2017

N/A

TC/REW CWCB Grants

Year	Amount	Applicant Name	Water Activitiy name	Approving RT
2004	\$ 52,500	Tamarisk Coalition	Mapping and Inventory	NA
2006	\$ 50,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Mapping and Inventory	NA
2007	\$ 62,500	Tamarisk Coalition	Planning and Restoration	NA
2009	\$ 35,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Planning and Techincal	NA
2010	\$ 85,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Biological Control Monitoring	NA
2010	\$ 10,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Riparian Restoration	NA
2011	\$ 25,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Restoration Demonstration	NA
2012	\$ 15,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Biological Control Monitoring	NA
2012	\$ 15,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Technical Services	NA
2013	\$ 10,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Geomorphic Monitoring	NA
2013	\$ 21,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Invasive Phreatophyte Program Assist.	NA
2013	\$ 250,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Non-consumptive (Environmental)	Colorado
2014	\$ 25,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Monitoring and Workshops	NA
2014	\$ 5,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Training and Technical Assist.	NA
2015	\$ 175,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Invasive Plant and Restoration	NA
2015	\$ 38,637	Tamarisk Coalition	Planning and basin assistance	NA
2016	\$ 86,500	Tamarisk Coalition	Restoration, Tech assistance	NA
2017	\$ 5,000	Tamarisk Coalition	Watershed support	NA
2018	\$ 84,725	Rivers Edge West	Watershed Restoration	NA

CWCB Meeting Date	Contract/PO #
11/13/2003	OE PDA 06000000007
unknown	OE PDA 07000000016
unknown	OE PDA 8000000051
unknown	OE PDA 09000000011
unknown	OE PDA 1100000009
8/26/2009	OE PDA 10000000039
unknown	OE PDA 12000000014
unknown	OE PDA 13000000007
unknown	OE PDA 12000000071
unknown	OE PDA 40000000021
unknown	OE PDA 13000000068
7/26/2012	C150513
unknown	OE PDA 14000000131
unknown	8000792588
unknown	CTGG1 PDAA 2016-1734
unknown	OE PDA 2016000000000000148
unknown	POGG1 PDAA 20160000000000000576
unknown	NA - \$5,000 or under
unknown	2018000000765

Dolores River Restoration Partnership Transition Plan 2015 - 2019

~Protecting our Shared Investments in Riparian Restoration through
Monitoring and Maintenance~

Last Updated on May 23, 2014



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~Photos courtesy of The Nature Conservancy and Tamarisk Coalition

Background and Plan Overview

The Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) is a public-private collaborative of partnering individuals, organizations, and agencies working to restore the plant communities in the riparian corridor of the Dolores River, which flows from the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado to eastern Utah, where it meets the Colorado River. Since 2009, the DRRP has worked to remove invasive plants whose extensive growth has displaced native plant communities, impaired wildlife habitat and forage, hindered access to campsites and other recreational opportunities, and increased risks associated with wildfire in the riparian corridor.

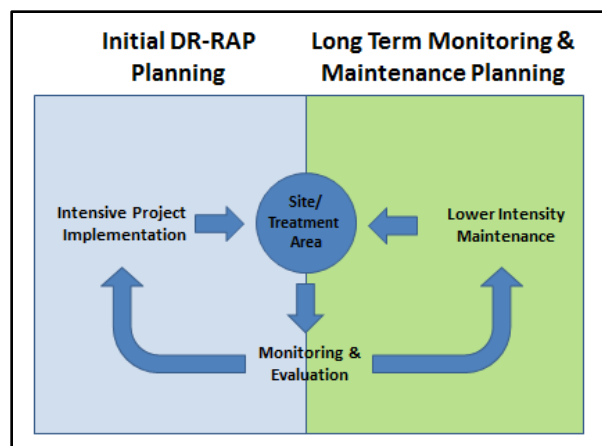


This broad community of partners, working along nearly 200 miles of the Dolores River, has been guided to date by the Dolores River-Riparian Action Plan (DR-RAP). Developed by stakeholders in 2010, DR-RAP provides a shared vision and set of goals that have guided the DRRP through its formative years of restoring the riparian corridor of the Dolores River. In addition to helping inform on-the-ground decisions, this five-year strategic plan has also guided broader decisions towards the partnership's ecological, social, economic, and management goals.

While DR-RAP has been instrumental to these dynamic years characterized by highly intensive, active implementation work, it does not articulate how to plan beyond this initial five-year phase of the partnership. A collaborative solution for the next stages of the partnership was initiated in 2012, to address the long-term monitoring and maintenance strategies for the DRRP.

Fundamentally, this transition plan answers the following questions:

- How do we protect our investment of dollars, social capital, time, and capacity in the Dolores River watershed?
- When does the DRRP cease to exist and/or transition its management of a project to another entity for continued monitoring and maintenance (M&M)?
- What does this transition to M&M look like?
- How can the partnership be successful in achieving its long-term vision?



Updated Partnership Goals

Goals:

The partnership goals listed below (updated from DR-RAP; see Appendix A for background), provide important guidance to the partnership as we complete the heavy lifting of intensive DR-RAP implementation work and transition into long-term M&M.

Ecological Goals: enhanced plant communities

- Increase the number of acres of sustainable, healthy riparian and floodplain plant communities in the watershed while reducing those dominated by tamarisk and other invasive, non-native plant species.
- Live tamarisk will be reduced to less than 5 percent of the vegetation cover while other invasive, non-native plants will be reduced to less than 15 percent of the vegetation cover within the riparian corridor; the remaining percent vegetation cover will be composed of desirable or native species.
- Total vegetation cover within the riparian corridor will be greater than or equal to 30 percent (if less than 30 percent, ensure that vegetation has been deemed to be adequate for the site).

Social Goals: youth, public safety, and aesthetics

- Increase opportunities for the next generation of stewards with regional conservation and youth corps programs that support underserved young adults.
- Increase public safety both by reducing wildfire-related risks with strategic fuel reductions as well as by improving highway safety with increased sight distance along state and county roads.
- Improve aesthetic enjoyment for recreationists and create a positive framework for them to interact with restoration work by pairing tamarisk control with intensive active restoration at sites frequented by the public.

Economic Goals: employment, local investments, efficiency, and recreation

- Increase employment opportunities for contractors and youth in the Dolores River area.
- Invest in the local economies of the Dolores River Area.
- Improve effectiveness and financial efficiency of our riparian restoration efforts by identifying and promoting cost-saving methods.
- Enhance visitor travel to the area for recreation (e.g., rafting, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing).

Management Goals: learning, sharing, and improving

- Facilitate communications between land managers and partners to help coordinate treatments, share lessons learned and increase treatment effectiveness/efficiency by sharing resources and crossing administrative boundaries.
- Incorporate educational and interpretative practices to enhance public understanding and appreciation of riparian restoration actions.

The Shift to Monitoring and Maintenance

Since 2009, the DRRP has initiated and advanced active, intensive restoration on dozens of sites on public and private lands across the Dolores River towards accomplishing our partnership goals. We have treated over 1,100 of the 1,345 targeted acres of mature stands of tamarisk prioritized for control, treated dense swaths of Russian knapweed, and planted thousands of native grass plugs, shrubs, and trees. Initial treatments of tamarisk are projected to be completed on all prioritized public lands and most of the participating private lands by the end of 2015.

While active, high-intensity implementation efforts for many sites are still ongoing, across the watershed we are beginning to see sites where ecological goals have already been met. In 2012, for instance, 30 percent of our representative watershed-wide monitoring sites where active treatment had been initiated had already met our partnership's ecological goals. On sites like these, land managers are now shifting to a less intensive 'maintenance mode,' which can mean a number of changes in terms of planning, labor forces, equipment, and training needs.¹

Defining Success

While the partnership's watershed-wide ecological goals described above on page 3 provide the partnership's milestone for restoration success, the partnership has also developed a shorter-term objective to determine when a particular restoration site can transition (e.g. in terms of planning, equipment, and project capacity) from highly intensive project implementation to a less intensive but steadfast M&M mode:

Definition of Objectives Met Through Active Management: *Native or desirable plants are restored on a given site to the extent that, assuming appropriate long-term maintenance by the private landowner or public land manager, it is reasonably foreseeable that natural plant recruitment and succession will progress toward DR-RAP's long-term vision.*

Long-Term Partnership Vision (as stated in DR-RAP): *The Dolores River watershed is dominated by native vegetation, where the threats from tamarisk and other associated invasive species have been mitigated and the riparian areas of the watershed continue to become more naturally functioning, self-sustaining, diverse, and resilient over time.*

The point at which each individual site meets restoration objectives and transitions into a long-term M&M mode is occurring at different times across the watershed, based on a variety of factors (e.g. when a project was started, what site-based constraints exist).



¹ This transition plan is a living document, which the DRRP will update as it embarks on transitioning into the stage of monitoring and maintenance and when new information becomes available. Future information that is expected to inform such updates to the plan include: 2014 watershed-wide monitoring, refined budgets, the addendum to the DRRP Memorandum of Understanding, and an evaluation from the San Miguel River restoration project.

Based on preliminary progress reporting (see Appendix B) by several land managers, a number of sites totaling over 760 acres are beginning to display trends of natural recruitment and plant succession, while others are projected to be several years away from this critical milestone.

The partnership has predicted through long-term project planning that by 2017, more than 75 percent of restoration sites are anticipated to have transitioned from active, high-intensity implementation to less intensive M&M. Achieving the partnership's watershed-wide ecological goals (see page 3), however, will take significantly longer, but will be achieved through multiple years of continued maintenance activities as well as natural recruitment.

It is anticipated that the DRRP will need to continue maintenance at some level after 2019. Regular evaluation will lead not only to updates to this transition plan at annual partnership meetings, but also identification of needs, gaps, and opportunities in 2020 and beyond for achieving the partnership's watershed-wide ecological goals.

Monitoring

Monitoring is being conducted on all actively treated sites throughout the watershed to track success towards the partnership's watershed-wide ecological goals as well as individual land manager goals; to document and help plan for transitions from active, high-intensity implementation to less intensive M&M; to determine the effectiveness of different restoration methods used; and to inform adaptive management.

Because the original goals established for these restoration sites were ecological in nature, monitoring efforts have focused primarily on tracking changes in the quantity and quality of vegetation on the landscape resulting from invasive species control and revegetation efforts (see Appendix C for background). The DRRP is currently conducting six types of monitoring to serve the following purposes:

- **Rapid Monitoring** – Site inventories conducted on an annual basis on actively treated sites to inform ongoing implementation/maintenance efforts, and help individual land managers track progress/success towards restoration goals. Photo Point Monitoring and Progress Reporting Monitoring (both discussed below) are typically incorporated into Rapid Monitoring when requested by the land manager.
- **Pilot Project Monitoring** – Statistically valid data collection conducted every two years since 2010 on several pilot project sites to track the effectiveness of unique restoration treatments being tested to inform remaining restoration work.
- **Watershed-Wide Monitoring** – Statistically valid data collection on representative transects conducted every two years since 2010 to track our progress as a partnership towards meeting our watershed-



wide ecological restoration goals (page 3), as well as to track the success and failure of different restoration methods utilized throughout the watershed and inform adaptive management.

- **Progress Reporting Monitoring** - Tracks success towards meeting ‘Objectives Met through Active Management’ (see page 4) to help land managers plan for the shift in needs that come with transitioning from intensive project implementation to less-intensive maintenance; this monitoring effort also ensures that sites classified as ‘Objectives Met’ do not regress (see page 12 and Appendix B for more details)
- **Photo Point Monitoring** – Visually tracks success towards meeting land manager ecological restoration goals by taking repeat photos annually or every few years
- **Other Forms of Informal Site Monitoring (‘Walk-about’ or ‘Look-Sees’)** – Typically conducted on select sites slated to collect necessary specific implementation data, or other information useful for individual land managers to track their own restoration goals.

Purpose for Future Monitoring Efforts: Working with university and Conservation Corps partners, the DRRP Science & Monitoring Subcommittee will continue to implement the monitoring efforts already in place (described above) to track progress and inform planning efforts.

Expected Monitoring Products: While Rapid, Pilot Project, and Watershed-Wide Monitoring always result in the preparation of a formal report, we also plan on writing a final overall summary report for the partnership for Pilot Project Monitoring in 2016, and a summary report for the partnership for Watershed-Wide Monitoring in 2019. In particular, the 2014 Watershed-Wide Monitoring Report will inform this transition plan when it is updated in December 2014.

How Monitoring Will Be Accomplished: The DRRP Science & Monitoring Subcommittee (SMS) has developed a working group to ensure that monitoring remains relevant and effective to support short-term and long-term goals for the partnership. The DRRP SMS will be working closely with the Implementation Subcommittee to coordinate the below monitoring efforts. The current developing plan is as follows (see pages 10 and 11 for corresponding schedule):

- Our university partners will continue to conduct Watershed-Wide and Pilot Project Monitoring through 2018
- A University of Denver post-doctorate student is currently preparing an ‘Interim’ Summary Report for the Watershed Wide Monitoring, anticipated to be completed in 2014; it is estimated that we may be able to develop a similar opportunity for the 2019 Summary Report for the Watershed Wide Monitoring.
- Rapid Monitoring will continue to include a Progress Reporting component and will be conducted by Conservation Corps ‘Strike Team’ crews that are trained in a variety of key Monitoring & Maintenance activities (maintenance weed treatment, follow-up revegetation efforts, Rapid Monitoring) through 2019.
- Other forms of informal site monitoring (e.g. ‘Walk-about’, ‘Look-Sees’) will continue being conducted by land managers and/or members of the DRRP Implementation Subcommittee as needed throughout the field seasons
- Evaluate strategies to engage and train more local citizens and students that could support monitoring efforts.
- The DRRP SMS will continue to track other relevant research being conducted in the watershed (e.g. knapweed studies at the Rio Mesa Center, The Nature Conservancy study

examining geomorphology, bird assessments by BLM and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, and biocontrol studies conducted by the Palisade Insectary) to inform restoration practices.

Maintenance

Purpose for Long-Term Maintenance: The DRRP will rely on a variety of maintenance practices to remove stressors of invasive plants so that the riparian corridor of the Dolores River becomes increasingly more self-sustaining, diverse, and resilient over time:

- Conducting follow-up treatments on herbaceous weeds as well as tamarisk resprouts;
- Utilizing the tamarisk beetle as biocontrol in areas prioritized for passive treatment;
- Continuing seeding and planting of native grasses, shrubs, and trees in areas prioritized for active revegetation as well as caging select cottonwood trees; and
- Initiating active revegetation in select areas where passive/natural recruitment was anticipated but has not materialized

Expected Maintenance Products: The Implementation Subcommittee will continue to meet annually to vet site-based plans, share lessons learned from the field, and document adaptive management strategies. Presentations at annual meetings will be posted on the DRRP website. The Implementation Subcommittee will produce annual maintenance plans to guide specific activities for the upcoming year. These plans, modeled after the current process of implementation planning, are expected to be completed by February of each year.

How Maintenance Will Be Accomplished:

Maintenance across the watershed will be coordinated largely by TC, TNC, and SCC, with the guidance and support of the Implementation Subcommittee. A variety of partners will conduct on-the-ground maintenance activities:

- **Conservation and Youth Corps “Strike Teams”** comprised of 2 – 3 members, will conduct a variety of tasks, from retreating woody and herbaceous weeds, to installing temporary fencing, and doing small-scale plantings;
- **Private landowners** will steward and maintain their lands through a variety of methods; in-kind, long-term stewardship is accounted for in Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) contracts with landowners, many of whom have already made great investments in their riparian lands (e.g. treating knapweed with a backpack sprayer, using a bulldozer to clear tamarisk, and/or assessing the impacts of restoration treatments);
- **Contractors** will continue to aid in treating secondary weeds;
- **Volunteer groups** (e.g. the Dolores River Boating Advocates & local students) will assist with plantings and manual tamarisk treatments in the Wilderness Study Area



near Bedrock, CO and elsewhere;

- **Conservation Corps** crews will complete treatments of tamarisk and Siberian elm, assist with fencing, and aid with large-scale plantings; and
- **Local, state, and federal agency staff** such as county weed managers, as well as resource specialists from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and PFW, will continue to provide technical assistance, along with the Tamarisk Coalition (TC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Private Lands Engagement

To date, the DRRP has collaborated with more than a dozen private landowners to restore over 600 acres of riparian habitat between Disappointment Creek and the Dolores River's confluence with the Colorado River. Coordinating partners include PFW, NRCS, BLM, county weed managers, TC, TNC, and the Conservation Corps. To ensure future access for continued maintenance work (e.g. for a strike team to conduct follow-up Russian knapweed treatments for a private landowner), the partnership, on a case-by-case basis, will enter into either informal agreements or more formalized contracts with private landowners to complete work.

In addition to past work, the DRRP has initiated conversations with several private landowners that have yet to work with the partnership, but whose circumstances have evolved such that they are now more eager and/or able to engage in restoring their



riparian lands. Based on the conversations, the DRRP plans to begin project implementation on three additional private properties, comprised of approximately 150 acres, by the end of 2015. In addition, the partnership will continue holding conversations with four other private landowners who presently are not focused on riparian restoration, but who remain open to future discussions to assess opportunities. The anticipated 150 acres on private lands are accounted for in the projected implementation and maintenance costs outlined in the budget below, based on the current status of promising conversations and connections with these landowners.

Capacity Needs

Protecting the restoration investment made in the Dolores River watershed will fundamentally require the continued commitment and collaboration of partnering individuals and organizations. From the decision-makers that rally their staff, to the non-profit grant-writer, to the private landowner working remotely on a patch of Russian knapweed, this effort requires people's time. The partnership will continue to rely on trust, reciprocity, and good working relationships to meet capacity needs.

Current projections of capacity needed for partnership coordination and planning by Tamarisk Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Legacy (formerly known as Southwest Conservation Corps), and contractors from 2016 to 2019, in total, is approximately \$200,500. This does not include substantial in-kind contributions from private landowners and agency staff.

After 2015, organizations represented on the Core Team anticipate increasingly scaled-down roles and have made these commitments:

- Bureau of Land Management Field Offices will have primary responsibility for restoration on their respective lands; administer GIS progress reporting for public lands; and continue to provide funding for implementation as well as M&M work.
- Tamarisk Coalition is committed to partnership coordination, implementation and maintenance planning, fundraising, and overseeing science and monitoring.
- The Nature Conservancy will provide assistance with contracting for implementation and maintenance work, fundraising, and administering funding mechanisms.
- Conservation Legacy/SCC will fundraise, coordinate initial treatment and strike-team maintenance workforces across corps programs, and coordinate volunteer events.

Numerous partners have offered to provide important contributions, such as: monitoring, volunteerism, funding to support M&M, technical assistance, contracting and administrative support, training volunteers, conducting secondary weed treatments, and hiring Conservation Corps crews, strike teams, and interns. The specifics of these roles will be outlined with the Memorandum of Understanding amendment to be completed in spring 2015.



Budget

The following budget provides projections for all activities associated with this plan. Details for each activity are provided in the subsequent sections. Please note the following:

- A set of calculated assumptions relating to decreasing size and density of infestations for follow-up treatments was used to predict the cost for re-treatments of Russian knapweed and tamarisk;
- The below costs reflect an important assumption that the DRRP will continue to expand relationships with private landowners in the watershed; based on current relationships with volunteering private landowners, \$180,000 of anticipated project implementation and maintenance is included in the following table.
- These tasks include partnership capacity (projected cost of \$347,100), active project implementation (projected cost of \$380,000), less-intensive maintenance (projected cost of \$365,200), and monitoring (projected cost of \$165,000) between 2015 – 2019. These

projected cost estimates reflect cash expenses and not the important in-kind contributions (e.g. volunteer and agency staff support totaling more than \$100,000/year) that will be garnered by partners.

- The current cost projections for on-the-ground M&M for 2020 and beyond at sites warranting additional restoration treatments is estimated at \$35,000 per year. These costs will be refined during implementation of the transition plan.

Table 1: DRRP Needs from 2015 - 2019

Year	Task/Description	Approx. Cost (Cash)	Funds Raised to Date
<u>2015</u>	Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completion of initial tamarisk treatments on public lands ▪ Intensive active revegetation ▪ Initial treatments of Russian knapweed and tamarisk resprouts ▪ Initiating new projects with volunteering private landowners 	\$255,000	Secured: \$415,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BLM Assistance Agreement ▪ Hendricks Family Foundation ▪ NFWF-AGO ▪ Walton Family Foundation Pending: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BLM Healthy Lands Initiative ▪ Colorado State Forest Service Grant ▪ NFWF-PTI
	Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot treatments of woody and secondary weeds on over 750 acres 	\$85,700	
	Rapid Monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conducted across a sub-set of actively treated sites in the watershed 	\$15,000	
	Capacity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partnership coordination and planning 	\$146,600	
	Total for 2015	\$502,300	
<u>2016</u>	Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued treatments of dense Russian knapweed and tamarisk resprouts ▪ Advancing new projects with volunteering private landowners 	\$125,000	Secured: \$50,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BLM Assistance Agreement ▪ Hendricks Family Foundation Pending: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BLM Healthy Lands Initiative
	Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot treatments of woody and secondary weeds ▪ Active revegetation in areas where passive revegetation is not occurring 	\$86,500	
	Rapid Monitoring: same as previous assessment	\$15,000	
	Final Pilot Project Monitoring: conducted at several pilot plots in UFO-BLM	\$10,000	
	Watershed-Wide Monitoring: conducted at 40 representative transects	\$40,000	
	Capacity:	\$78,500	
	Total for 2016	\$355,000	
<u>2017</u>	Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot treatments of woody and secondary weeds on over 750 acres ▪ Active revegetation in areas where passive revegetation is not occurring 	\$90,000	Pending: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BLM Healthy Lands Initiative

	Rapid Monitoring: same as previous assessment	\$15,000	
	Capacity:	\$63,000	
	Total for 2017	\$168,000	
2018	Maintenance: same as previous year's prescriptions	\$60,000	Pending: ▪ BLM Healthy Lands Initiative
	Rapid Monitoring: same as previous assessment	\$15,000	
	Watershed-Wide Monitoring: same as previous assessment	\$40,000	
	Capacity:	\$37,000	
	Total for 2018	\$152,000	
2019	Maintenance: spot treatments	\$43,000	Pending: ▪ BLM Healthy Lands Initiative
	Rapid Monitoring: same as previous assessment	\$15,000	
	Capacity:	\$22,000	
	Total for 2019	\$80,000	
Total for 2015 - 2019		\$1,257,300 total cost	\$415,000 total secured

Note: All costs in Table 1 reflect 2015 dollars and do not include inflation.

New Approaches for Fundraising

Since 2009, the DRRP has raised \$3.9 million in private and public funds (primarily through grants and the BLM Assistance Agreement) for project implementation (e.g. contractors using excavators, or trained crews equipped with chainsaws clearing daunting stands of tamarisk). Challenges remain to secure financial resources for the partnership, but a mixed approach of new and old tactics will be used.

The DRRP will continue to utilize available grant funds; however the partnership recognizes that many of the needs outlined in this transition plan are challenging to support through grant monies alone, due to the short-term and often restrictive nature of grant funding. Thus far, the DRRP has been able to balance the project-specific nature of grant funds with the utilization of the BLM Assistance Agreement, which has been much more flexible in terms of what the monies can be used for and when (i.e., it helps to fill gaps not covered by grant dollars).

To meet our **remaining fundraising goal of approximately \$842,300**, the DRRP's Funding Subcommittee is focusing on the following three main components of the DRRP's fundraising plan (see Appendix D for more details on the fundraising plan):

- 1) **Apply for grants:** The DRRP will maintain their traditional approach through the funding subcommittee to apply strategically for grants. For example the subcommittee utilizes existing relationships with grantors for select work (e.g. Colorado Water Conservation Board, Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative).

- 2) **Renew the BLM Assistance Agreement:** DRRP is working with BLM to secure additional funding (e.g. perhaps through the Healthy Lands Initiative) that would populate the Assistance Agreement with additional funding.
- 3) **Create a “Partnership Fund”:** The fund will be comprised of multiple funding inputs, managed by a third party community foundation, and will be spent as needed by the DRRP to cover relevant monitoring and maintenance needs. The fund will differ from the traditional approach of utilizing grant money in that it will be able to house individual and corporate donations and other more discretionary funds that can then be used as needed by the partnership. It will function similarly to the Assistance Agreement in that it provides flexibility, accessibility, and responsiveness to the needs of the DRRP (see Appendix D for more details).

Complementary strategies to support the fundraising plan include:

- Keeping the Funding Subcommittee active and engaged in DRRP fundraising efforts
- Work with federal and state agencies to sustain larger investments in DRRP project work (e.g. Colorado Parks & Wildlife Species Conservation Trust Fund).
- Build and cultivate sustaining relationships with both existing and new funders
- Developing a campaign that leverages multiple sources of funding and major donations to establish the Partnership Fund
- Identifying a list of viable, interested donors
- Integrating these funding efforts with the communications initiative (see page 13)
- Increasing local capacity (e.g. in the form of staff or volunteers) to help implement some of the more involved fundraising strategies (e.g. donor outreach, organizing events) that the Funding Subcommittee develops

Progress Tracking and Annual Reporting

The DRRP will continue to produce annual reports (see Appendix F) to track progress towards our shared goals. Additionally, with restoration work occurring across two states, four BLM field offices, and six counties, the DRRP will also begin utilizing a Geographic Information System that will (1) spatially and more consistently track restoration treatments that have been conducted across the watershed and (2) report progress towards meeting key milestones for restoration success (see Appendix B for more details). BLM will play a leading role in maintaining this tracking system.



Communication Plan

In order to be successful with fundraising and telling our story, a communications strategy and new multi-media resources are needed to tap into existing channels and promote the work of the partnership.

Table 4: Priorities for Future DRRP Communications

	Objective	Audiences	Avenues
1.	Fundraising	Current and potential donors and grantors	Existing relationships that partners have with funders
2.	Continued relevance & staff support	Key decision-makers from agencies and organizations	Biannual partnership meetings, site visits, office presentations
3.	Developing multi-media tools for showing successes & accomplishments	Current and potential donors and grantors, key decision-makers from agencies and organizations, DRRP, upland landowners, students, and communities	Videos, annual reports, newsletters, field trips, presentations, before/after photos
4.	Internal partnership motivation	The DRRP	DRRP website, annual reports, seasonal newsletters, biannual partnership meetings, workshops
5.	Stakeholder awareness and stewardship	Upland landowners, students, and communities	Workshops, volunteer events, DRRP website, biannual meetings
6.	Keeping informed and sharing lessons learned	Complementary programs or initiatives in the project area	Communicating with key partners who attend other stakeholder meetings (see Appendix E for more details) Participating in the Cross-Watershed Network

Expertise in marketing and communications to help develop and implement this plan has been identified as a fundamental gap among the current partnership members. As such, the Core Team is reaching out to other professionals with skill sets in marketing and public relations for assistance in developing this communications and marketing plan.

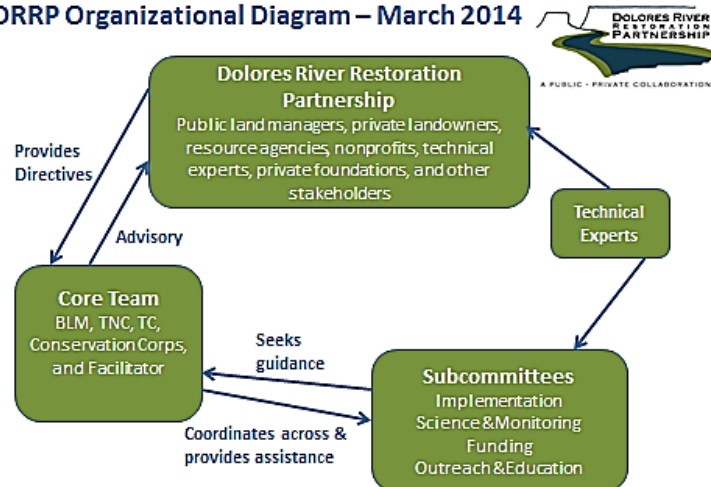


Governance and Partnership Commitment

At its inception, the DRRP was developed as what some scholars (e.g. Imperial & Koontz 2007) refer to as an “inter-organizational network”. In such an arrangement, this network of partners does not possess regulatory power, but relies on trust and good working relationships to make decisions and respond to emerging challenges, needs, and opportunities. Those roles and relationship, in turn, were formalized with a DRRP Memorandum of Understanding, signed and completed in 2010. Several topical subcommittees and an advisory Core Team, comprised of the subcommittee chairs and BLM leadership, assist the overall partnership in reaching its restoration goals.

Across the board, DRRP partners believe this current network arrangement, which represents substantial years of building social capital, can and should be sustained. Additionally, partners have articulated a commitment to meeting—through subcommittees, workshops, and at annual meetings—for years to come.

DRRP Organizational Diagram – March 2014



- The Implementation, Science & Monitoring, and Funding Subcommittees as well as the Core Team have been identified as critical for implementing the transition plan.
- The DRRP has decided to amend the original, 2010 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to affirm and renew partners' roles and responsibilities for advancing this transition plan. The MOU will be signed by partners by spring 2015, covering key roles such as fundraising, conducting monitoring and maintenance, providing partnership coordination, and maintaining GIS progress reporting.
- Cooperative agreements, assistance agreements, and other mechanisms will continue to be implemented and/or explored to support M&M work.

Conclusion

Implementing this transition plan will provide important opportunities for self-appraisal, refinement, and learning that will be shared not only within the DRRP, but also with other restoration partnerships.

The DRRP also recognizes that the implementation of this transition plan will impact people and organizations in various ways. As such, this plan seeks to be transparent and timely; informative and based on feedback from all partners; as well as comprehensive and responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities.

With these values and the long-term monitoring and maintenance strategies outlined here and in the accompanying appendices, the DRRP is confident that we have the right set of tools and commitments to protect our shared investments in the Dolores River.



Appendices A – F

See enclosure for appendices that provide background and additional details related to this plan.



Last Update: January 9, 2018

Colorado Water Conservation Board	
Water Supply Reserve Fund	
<u>Exhibit A - Statement of Work</u>	
Date:	Summer and Fall, 2019
Water Activity Name:	Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) Maintenance and Monitoring
Grant Recipient:	RiversEdge West (REW)
Funding Source:	Southwest Basin Roundtable
Water Activity Overview: (Please provide brief description of the proposed water activity (no more than 200 words). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRF funding will be used for.)	
<p>The DRRP is requesting \$25,000 for two specific activities: (1) an active revegetation volunteer project with the Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) at the boat ramp out of Bedrock, CO and (2) restoration site monitoring (i.e. Rapid Monitoring) within the Tres Rios BLM Field Office.</p> <p>WSRF funding will be used to pay for the WRV volunteer group, project supplies (i.e. containerized plants, caging materials, etc.) associated with the volunteer project, 4 weeks of a Conservation Corps 2-person monitoring strike team, and project coordination cost associated with the two activities.</p>	
Objectives: (List the objectives of the project)	
<p>Project implementation objectives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WRV Volunteer Project: 20 volunteers engaged, 10 acres of active revegetation• Rapid Monitoring: 300 acres <p>This work will achieve other objectives ranging from enhanced habitat and water quality to community engagement and education. The improvement of the Bedrock boat ramp through active revegetation will help increase recreational and aesthetic value, encouraging recreationists to visit and enjoy the river. Local jobs for young adults are created through the conservation corps strike team programs, which aligns with the DRRP goal to help foster the next generation of environmental stewards. Rapid monitoring helps the DRRP determine restoration success on sites previously treated for tamarisk and other noxious weeds and is a crucial part of the DRRP's adaptive management strategy to determine effectiveness of treatments/activities and improve upon restoration practices.</p> <p>To learn more about the DRRP's shared goals, please see page 3 of the Transition Plan for M&M, attached with our proposal.</p>	



Last Update: January 9, 2018

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<u>Task 1 - Wildland Restoration Volunteers Active Revegetation</u>
Description of Task: In sites where there is a low potential for passive recruitment of native species and/or where there is concern about re-encroachment of secondary weeds, the DRRP conducts active revegetation. The Bedrock boat ramp along the Dolores River near Bedrock, CO (Location A on the Project Locations Map) is a highly disturbed site that would benefit greatly from active revegetation in terms of ecological health as well as aesthetics since it is one of the more popular locations for river recreationists. Active revegetation is great for volunteer groups due to high numbers of participants and the rewarding nature of the work. The Wildlands Restoration Volunteers have worked with the DRRP for the past two seasons, participating in tamarisk treatment and revegetation projects, with another project planned for Fall 2018. These volunteer events are designed to be service learning projects where volunteers perform valuable work while learning about the river ecosystem, impacts of invasive species, and restoration processes.
Method/Procedure: With the support of the DRRP Restoration Coordinator and the SCC Watershed Programs Coordinator, volunteers will spend 2 days planting locally sourced containerized native shrub species such as New Mexico privet, three leaf sumac, and buffalo berry. This project will take place at the Bedrock boat ramp within the Uncompahgre BLM Field Office. Materials associated with this task include containerized plants, root stimulant, and watering buckets.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
10 acres of improved riparian corridor through active revegetation 20 volunteers engaged
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
Final report including numbers of volunteers engaged, at least 2 pictures from the event, and a map with a polygon of the active revegetation area



Last Update: January 9, 2018

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<u>Task 2 – Rapid Monitoring – Conservation Corps Monitoring Strike Team</u>
Description of Task: Rapid Monitoring was developed specifically for the needs of the DRRP and includes collection of non-native/native cover-class data, tamarisk cover, noxious weed invasions, presence of the tamarisk leaf beetle, wildlife presence, passive recruitment of native vegetation, and photos to document progress. Rapid monitoring teams will spend a total of 8 weeks in 2019 collecting rapid monitoring data on sites within the Tres Rios BLM Field Office (Location B in the Project Locations Map). CWCB WSRF funding would be used to support 4 weeks of this work.
Method/Procedure: The Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) recruits and selects two-person roving teams to conduct vegetation and weed monitoring utilizing Collector for ArcGIS on tablets. This team also compiles monitoring and photo-point reports at the end of the monitoring season for BLM land managers. Training and oversight is co-managed between SCC and RiversEdge West. Rapid Monitoring will take place throughout the Tres Rios BLM Field Office.
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
Rapid monitoring data for 300 acres Monitoring and photo-point reports
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
Final report including acres monitored and links to the rapid monitoring and photo-point reports

Last Update: January 9, 2018

Tasks
Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format:
<u>Task 3 – Project Coordination</u>
<p>Description of Task:</p> <p>Project coordination through staff at REW and SCC includes project planning for crews and volunteer groups, acquiring funding, managing crew and volunteer work logistics, training for monitoring strike teams, scheduling project work, reporting, coordinating with pertinent BLM land managers and private landowners, and field support.</p>
<p>Method/Procedure:</p> <p>The Restoration Coordinator from REW works specifically to coordinate and oversee all project work for the DRRP. Additionally, SCC's Watershed Programs Coordinator helps with monitoring, volunteer, and strike team work.</p> <p>Project planning will take place prior to the WRV volunteer project in collaboration with BLM land managers to figure out project details such as specific appropriate planting locations. The Watershed Programs Coordinator will also be onsite providing support for the entire WRV volunteer event. The DRRP will coordinate watering efforts after completion of the project to increase establishment success.</p> <p>Monitoring coordination includes development of ArcGIS maps and forms, scheduling and planning with BLM land managers, post-processing of data, and report development.</p>
Grantee Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee expects from this task)
Project work development and support for monitoring crews and volunteer groups. Rapid monitoring reports developed and distributed.
CWCB Deliverable: (Describe the deliverable the grantee will provide CWCB documenting the completion of this task)
Final report including links to the rapid monitoring reports

Last Update: January 9, 2018

Budget and Schedule

Exhibit B - 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 and shall be submitted to CWCB in excel format. A separate excel formatted Budget is required for engineering costs to include rate and unit costs.

Reporting Requirements

Progress Reports: The grantee 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. The CWCB may withhold reimbursement until satisfactory progress reports have been submitted.

Final Report: At completion of the project, the grantee shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the grantee'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.

Payments

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures, must include invoices for all work completed and must be on grantee's letterhead. 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.

The CWCB will pay the last 10% of the entire water activity 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 water activity and purchase order or contract will be closed without any further payment. Any entity that fails to complete a satisfactory Final Report and submit to CWCB within 90 days of the expiration of a purchase order or contract may be denied consideration for future funding of any type from CWCB.

Performance Requirements

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

(b) Accountability: Per the 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 the 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.

(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.

EXHIBIT B - BUDGET AND SCHEDULE - Direct & Indirect (Administrative) Costs

Water Activity Name: Dolores River Restoration Partnership Maintenance and Monitoring

Grantee Name: RiversEdge West

<u>Task No.</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u>Description</u>	<u>Start Date</u> ⁽²⁾	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Matching Funds</u> <u>(cash & in-kind)</u> ⁽³⁾	<u>WSRF Funds</u> <u>(Basin &</u> <u>Statewide</u> <u>combined)</u> ⁽³⁾	<u>Total</u>
1	Wildland Restoration Volunteers Active Revegetation - \$11,000 per 2-day event, \$2,600 for supplies and materials	9/1/2019	12/1/2019	\$7,900	\$13,600	\$21,500
2	Rapid Monitoring - SCC 2-person monitoring Strike Team @ \$2,200/week	7/1/2019	10/1/2019	\$8,800	\$8,800	\$17,600
3	Project Coordination - SCC Watershed Programs Coordinator Salary @ \$650/wk	3/1/2019	3/1/2020	\$10,000	\$2,600	\$12,600
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						\$0
						\$0
Total				\$26,700	\$25,000	\$51,700

(1) The single task that include costs for Grant Administration must provide a labor breakdown (see Indirect Costs tab below) where the total WSRF Grant contribution towards that task does not exceed 15% of the total WSRF Grant amount.

(2) Start Date for funding under \$100K - 45 Days from Board Approval; Start Date for funding over \$100K - 90 Days from Board Approval.

(3) Round values up to the nearest hundred dollars.

- Reimbursement eligibility commences upon the grantee's receipt of a Notice to Proceed (NTP)
- NTP will not be accepted as a start date. Project activities may commence as soon as the grantee enters contract and receives formal signed State Agreement.

The CWCB will pay the last 10% of the entire water activity budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of the CWCB staff project manager. Once the Final Report has been accepted, the final payment has been issued, the water activity and purchase order (PO) or contract will be closed without any further payment. Any entity that fails to complete a satisfactory Final Report and submit to the CWCB with 90 days of the expiration of the PO or contract may be denied consideration for future funding of any type from the CWCB.

- Additionally, the applicant shall provide a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of contract execution
- Standard contracting procedures dictate that the Expiration Date of the contract shall be 5 years from the Effective Date.

Water Supply Reserve Fund

Date: Summer and Fall, 2019

Water Activity Name: Dolores River Restoration Partnership Maintenance and Monitoring

Grantee Name: RiversEdge West

(1) Grant Administration costs must be submitted as a single task and may not exceed 15% of the Total WSRF Grant amount.

(2) Total WSRF Grant amount equals all Basin Account requests and all Statewide Account requests.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE

2465 South Townsend

Montrose, CO 81401

www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo.html



In Reply Refer To:
1737 (COS050)

Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., # 178
Denver, CO 80203

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support and express commitment towards the Rivers Edge West (REW) WSRF grant proposal for riparian restoration work along the Dolores River. The Bureau of Land Management, through three field offices in Colorado, is a partner of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) and invested in restoring the habitat along and within the Dolores River. We value the strong role REW plays within the DRRP and appreciate the relationships the BLM has with our many partners in common around Southwest Colorado. Together, our partnership has leveraged federal, private, and state funding to develop and implement some very hard-earned and strategized goals for tamarisk and herbaceous weed treatments combined with restoring native vegetation along the Dolores River.

Through creative and collaborative problem solving, the BLM has worked with the DRRP to manage, train and support mechanical contractors, conservation corps crews and "strike teams" conducting initial tamarisk removal, follow-up weed treatments, and monitoring, ensuring restoration success across miles of river corridor. To this end, the BLM intends to continue contributing significant in-kind resources in the form of vehicles, housing and equipment for strike team projects as we have since 2010. Additionally, my staff Ecologist will continue to provide guidance for crews in support of the efforts outlined in REW's proposal.

BLM staff plays important roles in implementation, funding, science and monitoring subcommittees to identify and manage priority projects throughout the watershed. From a BLM perspective, our great relationships with REW and the DRRP allow us to complete work that would otherwise be prohibitive. Not only do we humbly rely on this partnership to educate youth and locals in the four comers region, but outside visitors across the nation come to this special place and become our present and future stewards of our public lands.

Sincerely,

Gregory Larson

Uncompahgre Field Office Manager



Healing the Land
Building Community

June 26, 2018

Chris Sturm
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris,

On behalf of Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, I enthusiastically support Conservation Legacy's Southwest Conservation Corps, on behalf of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership, applying to Colorado Water Conservation Board's Water Supply Reserve Fund for restoration and monitoring efforts in the Dolores Watershed.

WRV has worked with the Dolores River Restoration Program for the past 3 years helping to support their work on removing the invasive Tamarisk. The past 2 of these years were funded thanks to a CWCB IPCP grant. Our volunteers have contributed their enthusiasm and time to this partnership over these past few years and are ready to continue. WRV would be excited to be involved in the proposed revegetation work and supports DRRP's efforts to monitor vegetation in the watershed. WRV would love to maintain involvement with this inspiring partnership and fully supports the application for this grant which would allow our continued involvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Self". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Self
Executive Director

www.wlr.org

2515 E. Sterling Circle
Suite 201
Boulder, CO 80301
303-543-1411

info@wlr.org



Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., #178
Denver, CO 80203

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing to support and express commitment towards the RiversEdge West grant proposal to the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Water Supply Reserve Fund. Along with RiversEdge West, the Conservation Legacy's Southwest Conservation Corps has been an integral part of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) since its inception and is invested in restoring the riparian habitat along the Dolores River.

Our partnership with RiversEdge West through the DRRP has enabled us to hire and train young adults in conservation service projects such as invasive species removal and active revegetation through conservation corps programming. The DRRP has provided many opportunities for members of crews and strike teams to develop their leadership, technical, and professional skills. The communities and ecosystems of Southwest Colorado are greatly benefited by the work of the DRRP.

In 2019, we are committed to providing cash match from Walton Family Foundation funds for \$8,800 and from our BLM Healthy Lands Initiative Assistance Agreement for \$10,000 to support monitoring, volunteer events, and project planning.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Kasyon', written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Emily Kasyon
Watershed Programs Coordinator

The Dolores River

Project Locations

