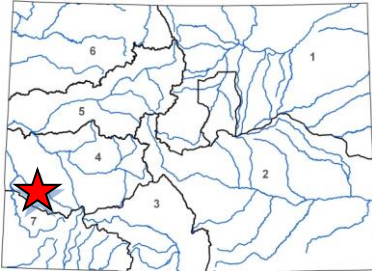




## Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Application



L O C A T I O N	
County/Countries:	Montezuma, Dolores, San Miguel, Montrose, Mesa, Garfield
Drainage Basin:	Southwest & Colorado

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$457,323
Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Request:	\$164,566
<b>Recommended amount:</b>	\$164,566
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$292,757
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type(s):	Planning and Implementation
Project Category(Categories):	Watershed and Stream Restoration
Measurable Result:	292 acres treated for invasive species. Framework for prioritization of restoration

RiversEdge West (REW, formerly Tamarisk Coalition) was incorporated as a nonprofit in 2002 with the mission to advance the restoration of riparian lands through collaboration, education, and technical assistance. REW's highest value is to protect the quality and ecological integrity of riparian lands as a means to promote the economic, social, and cultural wellbeing of communities. REW works with people and communities who manage and own riverside lands by: 1) providing important resources, methods, and solutions necessary for restoring riparian landscapes; 2) fostering communication; and 3) improving and/or establishing programs within governance, policy, economic, and information systems. REW consistently facilitates collaboration between diverse groups and individuals.



REW proposes developing a Riparian Monitoring and Prioritization Framework for Stream Management Planning that outlines objective criteria for determining when, where, and how monitoring and maintenance activities should take place within a given watershed's planning processes. Specifically, the proposed framework will help partners with the entire process of restoration including monitoring, site prioritization, and implementation.

Partial funding is provided for Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) to hire a two-person Western Colorado Stewardship Strike Team that is well trained and highly efficient in carrying out targeted monitoring and maintenance work. The strike team approach is currently being implemented on the Dolores River seasonally, and a pilot project was implemented on the Colorado River in the winter of 2018 and has proven to be a more effective method to hiring larger crews in terms of specialized skills, time, cost, and mobilization. This applies to monitoring and retreating sites (Tamarisk and Russian Olive re-sprouts, secondary weed treatments, or revegetation). REW will work with its partners to supply the equipment, scheduling needs, and support to ensure the strike team approach is sustained. This initiative would present an innovative approach to adaptively managing river systems throughout much of western Colorado and would help to ensure long-term restoration success in an efficient, effective, and lower-cost way. A mobile and technically capable team could react to rapidly changing environmental needs, and provide support to both public and private riparian land managers. Further, the strike-team model provides a framework for young Conservation Corps crew leaders to gain additional responsibility, leadership, and skills.

**COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant**  
**RiversEdge West Project Proposal Summary Sheet**

**Project Title:** Western Colorado Sustainable Stewardship Initiative

**Project Location:** Colorado River (Glenwood Springs to Utah border) and Dolores River (to Utah border).

**Grant Type:** Watershed/Stream Restoration Grant

**Grant Request Amount:** \$164,566

**Cash Match Funding:** \$228,917

**In-kind Match Funding:** \$63,840

**Project Sponsor & Fiscal Agent:**

Tamarisk Coalition; dba RiversEdge West (REW)  
PO Box 1907  
Grand Junction, CO 81502

**Contact Info:**

Rica Fulton, Restoration Coordinator  
970-256-7400  
rfulton@riversedgewest.org

**Estimated Completion Date:** December 2021

**Brief Description of the Project:** The purpose of this project is to collaboratively develop a sustainable stewardship implementation model through the creation of a Riparian Monitoring and Prioritization Framework, which will include a funded Stewardship Strike Team to conduct restoration and monitoring activities in western Colorado. This will serve as a tool for watershed planning processes across Colorado, promoting a long term and achievable commitment to riparian restoration.

**Cooperating Partners:** The key cooperating partners are Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW), Mesa County, City of Fruita, City of Grand Junction, Town of Palisade, Uncompahgre, Tres Rios, and Grand Junction Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices, Conservation Legacy's Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC), and Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC). For the planning portion of this proposal the key partners are the Middle Colorado Watershed Council, White River Partnership Restoration Planning, White River Integrated Watershed Management Planning Process, Yampa River Integrated Watershed Management Planning Process, and the San Miguel Stream Management Planning Process.

**Proposal Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Watershed Plan Links
- Attachment B: Scope of Work
- Attachment C: Overall Budget
- Attachment D: Detailed Budget
- Attachment E: Letters of Support
- Attachment F: Pertinent Photos
- Attachment G: Implementation Schedule
- Attachment H: Maps
- Attachment I: Project Lead Resumes

## QUALIFICATIONS EVALUATION

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

RiversEdge West (REW) is the lead project sponsor and grant coordinator for this proposal.

REW effectively coordinates and supports the restoration of riparian lands throughout Colorado, working with myriad partners such as public land managers, tribes, state entities, non-profits, and private landowners. With over 17 years of experience, REW and our partners have amassed a broad base of information and lessons learned about restoration techniques in the area. REW helped establish and currently leads the Desert Rivers Collaborative (DRC), the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP), and the White River Partnership; and directly supports eight others in the West. Thousands of acres of initial tamarisk and Russian olive removal has occurred, as well as monitoring and maintenance efforts, revegetation of sites, and the engagement of thousands of volunteers and students. REW has had a very successful track record in advancing effective riparian restoration and this proposal is looking to build on those successes to ensure the longevity of the work that has been accomplished to date and create a product to inform the entire process of riparian restoration efforts in stream management planning processes in western Colorado.

The DRC, established in 2012, has Memorandum of Understanding Signatories with 20 entities in Mesa and Delta Counties and continues to have over 30 attendees at partnership meetings. Since 2014, under REW's leadership, the DRC has completed restoration treatments on hundreds of acres of riparian lands within the footprint of the DRC. Restoration treatments include the initial removal of woody invasive species such as tamarisk and Russian olive (TRO), treating TRO re-sprouts, secondary weeds control, and revegetation of sites.

The DRRP, established in 2009, works extensively with Conservation Legacy's Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) and three BLM Field Offices including Grand Junction, Uncompahgre, and Tres Rios; as well as the Moab Field Office in Utah. MOUs are also signed with 21 stakeholders interested in restoration. Additional partners working to implement projects in Colorado include The Nature Conservancy, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (formerly Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory), Canyon Country Youth Corps, Gateway Canyons Resort, and Dolores River Boating Advocates. Since 2009, under REW's leadership the DRRP has conducted initial treatment on 1,700 acres and is taking the lead to monitor and maintain over 400 acres each year. Furthermore, the DRRP consistently engages volunteers from local schools, state-wide volunteer groups, and employs multiple youth conservation corps groups and technical strike teams each year. This approach benefits riparian ecology, wildlife, birds, rural economies, and provides educational experiences. Efforts by the DRRP have been hugely successful, as restoration treatments have occurred on 88% of monitored sites, and now 40% of sites have less than 5% tamarisk cover.

#### **Partners with an active role in this proposal are:**

**Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW)** has been a critical partner in the DRC since 2012 and manages James M. Robb Colorado River State Park encompassing five park sections along the Colorado River in the DRC area, as well as many State Wildlife Areas along the Colorado River. CPW will contribute to technical assistance in the site prioritization framework, in-kind and cash resources towards the Western Colorado Stewardship Strike Team efforts and conduct monitoring on their riverside properties in Tasks 1 and 3.

**Mesa County** manages county land parcels and treats noxious weeds on county and private lands. Mesa County will participate in the development of the site prioritization framework in Task 1 and assist with implementation.

**City of Grand Junction** manages parks and natural areas within the City boundaries. REW has partnered with the City on many projects since 2003. The City will treat secondary weeds on project sites, work with the DRC on site prioritization and monitoring, and provide staff assistance in Task 1.

**City of Fruita** manages trails and open space areas along the Big and Little Salt Washes as well as a City park and disc golf course along the Colorado River. REW has assisted Fruita in various restoration efforts since 2005. The City will contribute in-kind and cash contributions towards Task 3.

**Town of Palisade** manages Riverbend Park for events, natural spaces, and recreation including rafting and disc golf. REW has provided matching funds and technical assistance toward restoration in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Palisade will contribute in-kind and cash contributions towards Task 3.

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** DRRP works closely with three Colorado BLM field offices to identify, plan, coordinate, and fund project implementation and monitoring. BLM will help to identify sites where monitoring and maintenance are needed within Task 1 and cost-share needs in Task 3.

**Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC)** will employ the two-person Western Colorado Stewardship Strike Team (strike team) within Task 3, and provide equipment (transportation, chainsaws, backpack sprayers, etc.) necessary for monitoring, treating invasive riparian species, and revegetating sites. WCCC will also provide management and oversight to the strike team, serving as in-kind match.

**Conservation Legacy's Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC)** SCC operates conservation service programs across Southern Colorado and will be instrumental in carrying out monitoring activities on the Dolores River. SCC will train the strike team and active participants in these methods in Tasks 1, 2 and 3.

**Specify in-kind services and cash contributions (match) amount for the proposed activities.**

See detailed budget provided as Attachment D.

## ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY

### **What is the applicant organization's history of accomplishments in the watershed?**

Since its inception in 2002, REW has supported watershed-wide collaborative partnerships that are comprised of federal, state, and local agencies; community organizations and land owners throughout the West. As part of this effort, REW provides leadership, support, training, and technical assistance to community partnerships, including the DRC and the DRRP to ensure they have the capacity, technical resources, and information required to carry out and sustain riparian restoration work. REW has helped to initiate numerous stakeholder approaches to improving the health of riparian areas throughout the state which actively address riparian restoration today (e.g., Desert Rivers Collaborative, Purgatoire Watershed Weed Management Collaborative, Arkansas Woody Invasive Plant Partnership, Dolores River Restoration Partnership, Middle Colorado Watershed Council, and White River Partnership). One of REW's core competencies is sharing technical information and best-practices regarding riparian management. Furthermore, REW is committed to advancing all aspects of riparian restoration activities, including funding and planning for ongoing monitoring and maintenance of river systems. This includes helping four Colorado stakeholder groups to begin building organizational capacity for stewardship of their riparian areas via our Restore Our Rivers Campaign, raising nearly \$300,000 across the four partnerships in new funds (in 2016 & 2017) from foundations and individuals.

Specific to the DRC focus area, since 2014, 575 acres of initial tamarisk and Russian olive (TRO) removal have occurred, 671 acres of TRO re-sprouts have been addressed, 229 acres of seeding and revegetation have taken place, and 1,273 acres of secondary weeds have been treated by our myriad partners. The proposed work complements and extends restoration efforts funded by previous CWCB grants, including the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) and Invasive Phreatophyte Control Program (IPCP).

In the DRRP focus area since 2009, the partnership has completed 1,700 acres of initial tamarisk removal, 1,867 acres of tamarisk re-sprout and maintenance treatments, 3,865 acres of secondary weed control, and over 500 acres of revegetation including native grass seed, trees, and shrubs. From the fall of 2019 to the spring of 2020, the DRRP has 8 youth corps crews scheduled to work along the Dolores River from SCC, WCCC, and Canyon Country Youth Corps, as well as 8 weeks of strike team work scheduled.

In 2016, 2017, and 2018 DRRP monitoring teams monitored 241 sites and 211 of those sites have had subsequent restoration work occur. Under the current model, 400 acres are monitored each year. Relevant to this proposal, monitoring data has informed specific noxious weeds of concern, the percentage of native vs. non-native riparian species, the impact of the tamarisk beetle, and the creation of a tangible program where restoration work is based on annual ecological conditions, thus ecological conditions are understood and resources are put to the best use. Each year, the DRRP points to monitoring data to best prioritize resources and delineate necessary treatments.

**What level of staff will be directed toward the implementation of the proposed project? Discuss the number of staff and amount of time dedicated for the project.**

Rica Fulton, Restoration Coordinator with REW, will be the main point of contact for this project. In addition to overseeing grant administration, Rica will provide project planning and implementation assistance as well as coordination and leadership for the respective partnerships. In addition, REW will provide staff assistance for GIS, monitoring, and maintenance support through Ben Bloodworth, Biocontrol Program Lead. Fundraising assistance to start to develop a sustainable approach to implementing this scope of work beyond the grant period and ensuring matching funds will be carried out by Kristen Jespersen, Funding Program Coordinator. Overall technical assistance and support will be provided by Associate Director, Shannon Wadas and administrative support by Executive Director, Rusty Lloyd. (resumes, hours per staff and FTE calculations provided in Appendix I):

**Demonstrate that the project budget and schedule are realistic.**

CWCB funding will be used to meet the total project budget. With generous in-kind support and a substantial cash match, each project budget is realistic and achievable. Costs largely relate to REW staff time developing the Riparian Monitoring and Prioritization Framework for Stream Management Planning and participating in planning meetings, the hiring of the Western Colorado Stewardship Strike Team (including all related costs), and travel. The timeline for this project will take place over two years, to ensure adequate time to develop a useful and tested approach to implementing stewardship activities.

The monitoring and maintenance site list for the DRC and DRRP is developed (see Attachment G) and was created in accordance with monitoring data in the case of the DRRP, site manager input, retreatment times for invasive species, and current ecological conditions. These sites will be the focus of 2020-2021, and the subsequent year's sites will be based on monitoring data from both the DRRP and DRC. Specific treatments vary by site, but the strike team model ensures that all work is completed by a competent and quickly dispatched team of two people with a tested method of treating sites that is maximally efficient and effective. The strike team will spend approximately 50% of their time in the DRRP area (conducting treatments full-time,) and 50% of their time in the DRC region (25% of the time monitoring and 75% of time conducting treatments.) Monitoring in the DRRP is carried out by a separate monitoring-specific strike team. Engagement in the Stream Management Planning processes included in this grant will be subject to meeting times and schedules. REW will have five staff involved in these four planning processes to ensure ongoing and active engagement.

## PROPOSAL EFFECTIVENESS

### What information is the project sponsor using to develop the proposed plan or project?

The Colorado Water Plan and Basin Implementation Plans are the central platform and guide for watershed restoration and stream management planning in Colorado. As such, initiatives in these plans drive the planning and implementation of this project. The central purpose of this proposal is providing a tool for riparian restoration work within watershed planning, stream management planning, and integrated watershed management planning. This proposal will add to the multifaceted elements in these plans as a tool for those interested in making restoration goals within existing plans come to fruition. Notably, the Colorado Basin Roundtable supports this proposal.

The DRC utilizes a [5-Year Implementation Plan](#) to guide restoration efforts. This plan complements other planning efforts in the Grand Valley; the most pertinent to this effort is the Colorado River Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration report, which provides detailed assessment and restoration plans for the Colorado River from Loma to Palisade. A management plan has also been developed for several CPW sites, including Island Acres and Horsethief Canyon SWA.

The work of the DRRP is guided by a scientifically driven restoration plan; the Dolores River Restoration Action Plan (DR-RAP), which outlines four shared goals: ecological, social, economic, and adaptive management. 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 2015 DRRP Transition Plan for Monitoring and Maintenance outlines the activities that need to take place 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.

### Discuss the multiple objective aspects of the project and how they relate to each other.

REW coordinates riparian restoration and weed management activities throughout the Colorado, Gunnison, Dolores, and White Rivers. These collaborations have resulted in the sharing and leveraging of resources, coordinated management, and connected planning efforts. The DRC coordinates efforts with neighboring partnership groups including the Middle Colorado Watershed Council, while the DRRP coordinates with the San Miguel; and REW staff coordinate with the Yampa Integrated Watershed Management Planning Process and the White River Integrated Watershed Management Planning Process.

Invasive plant removal, specifically tamarisk and Russian olive TRO removal, improves stream channel capacity and flow velocities, which, can lead to improvements in native fish habitat, including the four endangered Colorado River fish species. Concurrently, flood impacts are mitigated as the channel is widened and as more pliant native vegetation replaces invasive woody species. Improved vegetative cover can assist in the management of selenium and salinity; furthermore, wildfire risk is often reduced through TRO replacement. Among other impacts, riparian fires can contribute to decreased water quality. Through restoration, food source diversity for terrestrial and aquatic organisms will likely improve for many species, including the threatened Western Yellow Billed Cuckoo.

The work of the DRRP is aimed at removing invasive plants, restoring native vegetation, and supporting fish and wildlife habitat along the imperiled Dolores River, which is identified as an Identified Projects and Process (IPPs) in the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan (ID# 20-DM). Invasive plants such as



tamarisk and other aggressive weeds infest the Dolores River, displacing native plants, impairing wildlife and fish habitat and forage and diminishing access for recreation and land use.

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 flannelmouth 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 are traced by the Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway. Finally, restoration increases access to recreational amenities and promotes associated riverside recreation.

Benefits of long-term restoration are not realized immediately after initial removal of woody invasives – follow-up retreatment is a critical aspect of the restoration cycle and the hardest stage for partners to maintain. The DRC and DRRP continue to track these needs and support with available resources however, local governmental entities have limited capacity to take on this work. Given this capacity gap by land owners and managers, and general unfamiliarity with restoration best-practices, this proposal tangibly illustrating the restoration process within the context of stream management planning and supports partner’s implementation needs in Colorado.

#### **Describe the proposed monitoring or implementation plan.**

The Riparian Monitoring and Prioritization Framework for Stream Management Planning central to this proposal encompasses monitoring and implementation elements as related to watershed restoration. The final product will be a tool for entities engaged in stream management planning who require a roadmap for riparian restoration. The proposed resource will include four major components:

- A rapid monitoring protocol including a step-by-step guide of using a geodatabase to house monitoring data based on REW’s existing DRRP model,
- A framework for how to prioritize sites within a given watershed based on ecological conditions,
- The use of a well-trained and mobile two-person strike team who can monitor and work on public and private lands in an efficient and cost-effective way,
- and recommendations for sustainably funding the strike team in a cost-share manner as to alleviate dependency on singular grant sources.

Methods for collecting information include photo point documentation and rapid monitoring findings, based on REW protocols (link in Attachment A.) All monitoring data in the DRRP is housed in a comprehensive geodatabase that compiles treatment and monitoring data. In the second year of this proposal, monitoring data for the DRC will also be housed in REW’s geodatabase. A summary of monitoring data for both the DRC and DRRP will be included in the CWCB annual reports.

Success will be measured by the ability for watershed groups, water managers, counties, municipalities, and others to access this resource through REW staff engagement and online availability. REW’s presence at some of these planning processes will also be a measure of success. Finally, the number of acres monitored and treated by the Western Colorado Stewardship Strike Team will be a measure of success. 169.5 acres will be treated in the DRC area, and 274 will be monitored. In the DRRP area, 122 acres will be treated and 400 will be monitored. A long-term measure of success is the ecological condition of sites as informed by monitoring data. A description of work accomplished by the Western Colorado Stewardship Strike Team will be included in reports to CWCB.

**Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant Program Application**  
**ATTACHMENT A: Watershed Plan Links**

Desert Rivers Collaborative

- [Implementation Plan](#)

Dolores River Restoration Partnership

- [Dolores River Riparian Action Plan](#)
- [Transition Plan 2015-2019](#)
- [DRRP Rapid Monitoring Protocol](#)

Middle Colorado Watershed Council

- [Riparian Restoration Action Plan](#)



**Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant Program Application**  
**ATTACHMENT B: Scope of Work**

**GRANTEE AND FISCAL AGENT:**

Tamarisk Coalition; dba RiversEdge West (REW)  
PO Box 1907  
Grand Junction, CO 81502

**PRIMARY CONTACTS:**

Rica Fulton  
Restoration Coordinator  
970-256-7400  
rfulton@riversedgewest.org

**PROJECT NAME:** RiversEdge West (REW) – Western Colorado Sustainable Stewardship Initiative

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$ 164,566

**INTRODUCTION:**

RiversEdge West (REW, formerly Tamarisk Coalition) was incorporated as a nonprofit in 2002 with the mission to advance the restoration of riparian lands through collaboration, education, and technical assistance. Our highest value is to protect the quality and ecological integrity of riparian lands as a means to promote the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of communities. REW works with people and communities who manage and own riverside lands by: 1) providing important resources, methods, and solutions necessary for restoring riparian landscapes; 2) fostering communication, assisting with problem-solving, and approaches to effectively restore riparian areas; and 3) improving and/or establishing programs within governance, policy, economic, and information systems. Since our founding, REW consistently facilitates collaboration between diverse groups and individuals.

The value that REW offers to restoration work throughout Colorado is the expertise, coordination, and capacity that we bring to projects. During early planning stages, such as Integrated Watershed Management processes, stream management planning, or municipal planning, REW serves as an important advocate and technical resource for riparian restoration issues. The knowledge of ecosystem-wide impacts of invasive plants and how to manage and mitigate them is extremely critical to the development of effective plans that address the systemic issues within a given watershed. Another key area where REW brings important resources is the development of ongoing stewardship strategies for the post-implementation phase. After initial invasive plant removal takes place, many restoration practitioners struggle to keep up with the monitoring and maintenance (M&M) activities that are critical to the lasting recovery of a river and that require ongoing capacity and expertise. REW is a key partner in helping practitioners, especially State and local government partners, sustain these activities through our planning and prioritizing sites, fundraising, and supplying capacity to do the work. Without this assistance, sites that have undergone initial treatment would likely return to their previous state of being dominated by invasive plants, prone to wildfire risks, and lacking in biodiversity.

In this proposal, REW is uniquely poised to promote effective riparian restoration in planning processes across western Colorado, and requests support from CWCB to tangibly assist in these efforts. Specifically, there are three components within this proposal that ensure stakeholders engaged in planning processes have the tools needed to plan, prioritize, implement, and fund riparian restoration in western Colorado.

REW proposes developing a **Riparian Monitoring and Prioritization Framework for Stream Management Planning** that outlines objective criteria for determining when, where, and how monitoring and maintenance activities should take place within a given watershed's planning processes. Specifically, the proposed framework will help partners with the entire process of restoration, from monitoring and site prioritization to implementation. The first step is adopting a monitoring program. A Rapid Monitoring Protocol is currently used in the DRRP and effectively informs site conditions and restoration actions each year and will be provided. Following, a technical working group organized by REW will develop a ranked criterion to prioritize site conditions from monitoring data. This process will help inform real-time ecological conditions, delineate what treatments each site may need, provide a framework of prioritizing resources, and serve as a model of how to implement treatments using a cost-share strike team model. This dynamic framework will be made available to stream management planning processes across Colorado as a tool for all stakeholders to include into various plans.

The second component of this proposal and the Riparian Monitoring and Prioritization Framework for Stream Management Planning is the compilation of **maintenance of monitoring data in an online geodatabase**. REW presently manage a geodatabase for the DRC, and REW and SCC manage a geodatabase with monitoring data for the DRRP. Currently, there is no formalized rapid monitoring program for the DRC, so a rapid monitoring program would be established using the DRRP model on areas listed in a link in Attachment A. Further, REW will create outward-facing maps for both the DRC and DRRP with treatment data and site conditions based on monitoring data for all partners to access.

Finally, this proposal provides partial funding for Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) to hire a two-person **Western Colorado Stewardship Strike Team** that is well-trained and highly efficient in carrying out targeted monitoring and maintenance work throughout the DRC and DRRP jurisdictions for 24 months (assuming three weeks of unpaid vacation). The strike team approach is currently being implemented on the Dolores River seasonally, and a pilot project was implemented on the Colorado River in the winter of 2018 and has proven to be a more effective method to hiring larger crews in terms of specialized skills, time, cost, and mobilization. This is especially the case when monitoring and retreating sites (TRO re-sprouts, secondary weed treatments, or revegetation). This proposal's overall focus on monitoring and maintenance is a result of input from the larger DRC and DRRP partner needs and recommendations. Through this proposal, REW would work with WCCC and other partners, such as the BLM and Mesa County, to supply the equipment, scheduling needs, and support to ensure the strike team approach was sustained. The team will continue to do work on the Dolores River, and fill an important maintenance and monitoring gap on the Colorado River within the DRC. This initiative would present an innovative approach to adaptively managing river systems throughout much of western Colorado and would help to ensure long-term restoration success in an efficient, effective, and lower-cost way. A mobile and technically-capable team could react to rapidly changing environmental needs, and provide support to both public and private riparian land managers. Further, the strike-team model

proposed here would provide a framework for young Conservation Corps crew leaders to gain additional responsibility, leadership, and skills.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- **Objective 1:** Establish a framework for a sustainable stewardship program that can be used in western Colorado watersheds. This framework will include a rapid monitoring protocol and corresponding geodatabase, a weighted scale that practitioners can use to rank sites according to ecological conditions, feasibility, cost-efficiency and other factors, as well as a proposed cost-share framework for a stewardship strike team to implement treatments and monitoring.
- **Objective 2:** Once complete, we will make the Riparian Monitoring and Prioritization Framework for Stream Management Planning available to stream planning efforts throughout the state via REW's strategic participation in select stream management planning (e.g., the White River, Yampa and Middle Colorado's Integrated Watershed Management Planning, and the San Miguel Stream Management Planning Process). The product will also be available online.
- **Objective 3:** Develop a rapid monitoring program for the DRC area using the DRRP protocol as a framework.
- **Objective 4:** Maintain the DRC geodatabase with monitoring data obtained by the Western Colorado Stewardship Strike Team and additional partners, and create outward-facing maps for the DRC and DRRP monitoring and treatment data.
- **Objective 5:** Implement a 24-month strike team model that is able to fill capacity gaps among land managers in the DRC partnership, and to support ongoing needs within the DRRP to ensure that critical monitoring and maintenance work is done well and in a timely and efficient manner.

#### **TASKS**

##### **TASK 1 – Riparian Monitoring and Prioritization Framework for Stream Management Planning**

Description of Task: Development of a replicable multi-step framework for the entire process of riparian restoration. Components include the development of a monitoring program, a guide to establishing a geodatabase to house and analyze spatial data, prioritization of treatments using monitoring data and a weighted criterion related to ecological conditions, urgency, location, feasibility and geography and finally, implementing a Stewardship Strike Team to implement the treatments needed within a cost-share model. Once developed, this framework will be available as a tool for Stream Management Planning Processes to provide guidance in creating an inventory of riparian monitoring and maintenance projects that can be treated in the near-term and long-term to ensure watersheds are restored based on ecological conditions.

Method/Procedure: First, over the course of 12-months, REW will provide a guide for how to implement the Rapid Monitoring Protocol utilized by the DRRP. Secondly, REW staff will establish a technical working group of land managers and technical experts on the Dolores River, and the Colorado River from Glenwood Springs to the Utah State line to create a framework based on ecological conditions to prioritize sites needing riparian restoration work. Projects will be prioritized according to rapid monitoring data and a developed set of criteria based on-ecological conditions as compared to intended restoration goals for each site. Descriptions of the work required, the time of year work should be done, and any permitting requirements will be collected and factored into the geodatabase model. This information will be used to create a guide for how to develop a geodatabase for watersheds based on our DRRP and DRC geodatabases. This information will be used to develop a monitoring and maintenance schedule that can be implemented by the Stewardship Strike Team model currently used on the DRRP to effectively assist all land managers and owners in conducting treatments and monitoring. This framework is intended to be utilized by stream management planning processes in western Colorado.

Over the course of 24-months, REW will carry out ongoing outreach to watershed groups undergoing planning activities (e.g. Yampa, White River, MCWC, San Miguel) both while the Framework is being developed and once it is complete - to ensure riparian issues and monitoring and maintenance needs are factored into restoration plans throughout the respective planning processes.

In addition, during the course of working with land managers and landowners in Western Colorado, REW will demonstrate the value of a targeted monitoring and maintenance program and use this demonstrated success to explore sustainable funding options such as a cost-share model that can fund a full year strike team. The vision will be for the first two years of the project to focus on the development and implementation of the framework.

#### Deliverables

- Formalized, science-based set of criteria in which to prioritize restoration sites.
- A replicable framework of criteria and protocols including geodatabase guidance to follow when assessing where to conduct restoration to be shared with stream management planning processes in Western Colorado.
- Distribution of framework to other watershed groups.
- Recommendations for sustainably funding the strike team approach.

### **TASK 2 – Management of DRC and DRRP Monitoring Data**

Description of Task: Collection and management of monitoring data collected by strike teams and land managers in the field and an outward-facing map available to the public. Also, an established monitoring program for the DRC will be developed. This information will help inform the inventory of sites for the following year for the DRC and DRRP jurisdictions and ensure treatments are based on ecological conditions.

Method/Procedure: Over the course of 24-months, utilizing the Rapid Monitoring Protocol developed by the DRRP, the DRC will establish a program, timeline, and process for rapid monitoring on eligible sites in the DRC area. With a far more diverse land ownership patchwork, monitoring will be nuanced, however, the Western Colorado Stewardship Strike Team will be trained and able to monitor feasible project areas along the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers in Mesa and Delta Counties. The flexible nature of the protocol allows for sites to be added in the future. A partnership-wide training will be created to train land managers of the process. Further, REW staff will provide ongoing maintenance of the monitoring data and upload it into our existing geodatabase for analysis, continuity and outreach.

#### Deliverables

- Geodatabase with monitoring data for the DRC and DRRP
- A solidified annual rapid monitoring program for the DRC
- One Rapid Monitoring Training for DRC partners and other interested parties in Western Colorado
- An outward-facing map for the DRC and DRRP monitoring and treatment data

### **TASK 3 – Implementation of Western Colorado Stewardship Strike Team**

Description of Task: Hire a two-person strike team to carry out the rapid monitoring and maintenance treatments outlined in the Riparian Monitoring and Prioritization Framework for Stream Management Planning in Task 1. The strike team will work equally in the DRRP and DRC areas.

Method/Procedure: REW staff will work with WCCC and SCC to hire the strike team for 21-months and implement monitoring and maintenance work on the Colorado River within the DRC, and on the Dolores River below McPhee Dam to the Utah state line. Coordination will entail ensuring the strike team members are trained in chainsaw use, herbicide application and biomass disposal techniques and that the necessary equipment (trucks, spray rigs) are available for full-year use. This approach requires training in highly efficient monitoring and treatment protocols that ensure higher productivity and on-the-ground effectiveness.

Thousands of projects have been completed on four key stretches of river, costing millions of dollars. With the implementation of a Western Colorado Stewardship Strike Team, economic investments, and ecological progress is ensured at a fraction of the cost. Furthermore, this framework can support Conservation Corps youth develop leadership, responsibility, and myriad technical skills as well as pass on invaluable institutional knowledge.

#### Deliverables:

- Ongoing implementation of maintenance work on four key stretches of river.
- Rapid Monitoring data collection of 400 acres on the Dolores River and 194 in the DRC area.
- 122 acres will be retreated along the Dolores, and 169.5 in the DRC area.

**Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant Program Application**  
**ATTACHMENT C: Overall Budget**

Task	Description	Target Start Date	Target Completion Date	CWCB Funds	Other Funding Cash*	Other Funding In-Kind*	Total
1	Riparian Monitoring and Prioritization Framework for Stream Management Planning (12 months)	March 2020	Feb 2021	\$36,708	\$44,343	\$19,986	\$101,038
2	Management of Partnership Monitoring Data (24 months)	Jan 2020	Dec 2021	\$15,607	\$15,010	\$597	\$31,213
3	Implementation of the Western Colorado Stewardship Strike Team (21 months)	Jan 2020	Sep 2021	\$112,251	\$169,564	\$43,257	\$325,072
	<b>TOTALS</b>			\$164,566	\$228,917	\$63,840	\$457,324

**Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant Program Application**  
**ATTACHMENT D: Detailed Budget:**

**Task 1/Riparian Monitoring and Prioritization Framework for Stream Management Planning**

Staff/Partner Time(for 2 years)	# Hours	Rate	Total	CWCB Portion	CWCB %	Match Portion	Match %	Match Source	Notes
REW Restoration Coord. (DRRP/DRC)	1040	\$ 42	\$ 43,586	\$ 21,793	50%	\$ 21,793	50%	BLM	Cash
REW Restoration Coord. (WRP)	100	\$ 42	\$ 4,191	\$ 2,096	50%	\$ 2,096	50%	BOR	Cash
REW Restoration Coord.	100	\$ 43	\$ 4,322	\$ 2,161	50%	\$ 2,161	50%	WFF	Cash
Funding Program Coord.	150	\$ 57	\$ 8,622	\$ 4,311	50%	\$ 4,311	50%	WFF	Cash
GIS Coordinator	20	\$ 54	\$ 1,080	\$ 540	50%	\$ 540	50%	WFF	Cash
Associate Director	200	\$ 60	\$ 11,940	\$ 2,985	25%	\$ 8,955	75%	ROR	Cash
Executive Director	50	\$ 67	\$ 3,331	\$ 833	25%	\$ 2,498	75%	WFF	Cash
Mesa County	156	\$ 24	\$ 3,666	\$ -	0%	\$ 3,666	100%	Mesa Co	In-kind
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	80	\$ 42	\$ 3,360	\$ -	0%	\$ 3,360	100%	CPW	In-kind
BLM - Uncompaghe	160	\$ 45	\$ 7,200	\$ -	0%	\$ 7,200	100%	BLM	In-kind
BLM - Grand Junction	80	\$ 36	\$ 2,880	\$ -	0%	\$ 2,880	100%	BLM	In-kind
BLM - Tres Rios	80	\$ 36	\$ 2,880	\$ -	0%	\$ 2,880	100%	BLM	In-kind
Subtotal			\$ 97,058	\$ 34,718		\$ 62,340			

Expenses (for 2 years)	Unit Cost	# of Units	Total	CWCB Portion	CWCB %	Match Portion	Match %	Match Source	Notes
Mileage	\$ 0.58	3000	\$ 1,740	\$ 870	50%	\$ 870	50%	BLM, WRI, WFF	Cash
Lodging	\$ 100.00	8	\$ 800	\$ 400	50%	\$ 400	50%	BLM, WRI, WFF	Cash
Per Diem	\$ 40.00	36	\$ 1,440	\$ 720	50%	\$ 720	50%	BLM, WRI, WFF	Cash
Subtotal			\$ 3,980	\$ 1,990		\$ 1,990			
<b>Task 1 total</b>			<b>\$ 101,038</b>	<b>\$ 36,708</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>\$ 64,330</b>			

**Task 2/ Management of Partnership Monitoring Data**

Staff/Partner Time (for 2 years)	# Hours	Rate	Total	CWCB Portion	CWCB %	Match Portion	Match %	Match Source	Notes
Restoration Coordinator	300	\$ 42	\$ 12,573	\$ 6,287	50%	\$ 6,287	50%	BLM	Cash
GIS Coordinator	200	\$ 54	\$ 10,846	\$ 5,423	50%	\$ 5,423	50%	APHIS	Cash
Associate Director	20	\$ 60	\$ 1,194	\$ 597	50%	\$ 597	50%	REW	In-Kind
SW Conservation Corps Coord.	200	\$ 27	\$ 5,400	\$ 2,700	50%	\$ 2,700	50%	WFF	Cash
Subtotal			\$ 30,013	\$ 15,007		\$ 15,007			

Expenses (for 2 years)	Unit Cost	# of Units	Total	CWCB Portion	CWCB %	Match Portion	Match %	Match Source	Notes
Equipment - Tablet for monitoring	\$ 400.00	3	\$ 1,200	\$ 600	50%	\$ 600	50%	BLM	Cash
Subtotal			\$ 1,200	\$ 600		\$ 600			
<b>Task 2 total</b>			<b>\$ 31,213</b>	<b>\$ 15,607</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>\$ 15,607</b>			



**Task 3/ Implementation of the Western Colorado Stewardship Strike Team**

Staff/Partner Time (for 2 years)	# Hours	Rate	Total	CWCB Portion	CWCB %	Match Portion	Match %	Match Source	Notes
Restoration Coordinator	600	\$ 42	\$ 25,146	\$ 12,573	50%	\$ 12,573	50%	ROR	Cash
Associate Director	60	\$ 60	\$ 3,582	\$ 1,791	50%	\$ 1,791	50%	ROR	Cash
SW Conservation Corps Coord.	400	\$ 27	\$ 10,800	\$ 5,400	50%	\$ 5,400	50%	WRI, Telluride Fdn	Cash
W. Co Conservation Corps Coord.	672	\$ 26	\$ 17,784	\$ -	0%	\$ 17,784	100%	WCCC	In-kind
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	14.5	\$ 640	\$ 9,280	\$ -	0%	\$ 9,280	100%	CPW	In-kind
Town of Palisade	300	\$ 30	\$ 9,000	\$ -	0%	\$ 9,000	100%	City of Palisade	In-kind
City of Fruita	240	\$ 28	\$ 6,706	\$ -	0%	\$ 6,706	100%	City of Fruita	In-kind
Subtotal			\$ 82,298	\$ 19,764		\$ 62,534			

Expenses (for 2 years)	Unit Cost	# of Units	Total	CWCB Portion	CWCB %	Match Portion	Match %	Match Source	Notes
Herbicide	\$ 50.00	236	\$ 11,800	\$ -	0%	\$ 11,800	100%	CPW, BLM, Mesa Co	Cash
Mileage (based on GSA, around project area (70 mi/ 24 days avg.)	\$ 0.58	1680	\$ 974	\$ 487	50%	\$ 487	50%	REW	In-kind
Strike Team	\$ 2,500	92	\$ 230,000	\$ 92,000	40%	\$ 138,000	60%	WFF, BLM, Chevron, WRI, Palisade	Cash
Subtotal			\$ 242,774	\$ 92,487		\$ 150,287			

<b>Task 3 total</b>	<b>\$ 325,072</b>	<b>\$ 112,251</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>\$ 212,821</b>
---------------------	-------------------	-------------------	------------	-------------------

	Total	CWCB Portion	CWCB %	Match Total	Match %	Cash	In-kind
Task 1 - 3 Subtotals:	\$ 457,324	\$ 164,566	36%	\$ 292,758	64%	\$ 228,917	\$ 63,840
						78%	22%

<b>Match Sources and Totals</b>	<b>In-kind</b>	<b>Cash - Secured</b>	<b>Cash - Pending</b>
RiversEdge West	\$ 1,084	\$ -	\$ -
Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)	\$ 12,640	\$ 11,000	\$ -
Mesa County	\$ 3,666	\$ 300	\$ -
City of Fruita	\$ 6,706	\$ -	\$ -
Town of Palisade	\$ 9,000	\$ -	\$ -
Western Colorado Conservation Corps	\$ 17,784	\$ -	\$ -
US Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	\$ 12,960	\$ 104,680	\$ -
Walton Family Foundation (WFF)	\$ -	\$ 42,710	\$ -
REW Restore Our Rivers Fund (ROR)	\$ -	\$ 23,319	\$ -
Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI) DRRP/WRP	\$ -	\$ 9,390	\$ -
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	\$ -	\$ 5,423	\$ -
Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)	\$ -	\$ 2,096	\$ -
Town of Palisade	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Telluride Foundation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Chevron	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 63,840</b>	<b>\$ 203,918</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>

**Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant Program Application**  
**ATTACHMENT E: Letters of Support**

***THE COLORADO BASIN ROUNDTABLE***  
***C/O P.O. BOX 1120***  
***GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO 81602***

**October 30, 2019**

Chris Sturm  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St.  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chris:

The Colorado Basin Roundtable BIP cites Healthy Rivers and riparian corridors as one of its six major themes.

Thus I can write to express the Roundtable's support for RiversEdge West's application to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program to support riparian restoration along the Dolores and Colorado rivers. These efforts further the work of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership and the Desert Rivers Collaborative to assist Stream Management Planning processes throughout the Colorado River Basin through the development of a site prioritization framework for riparian restoration.

Both of these partnerships maintain broad-based support from local and regional interests. These partnerships are comprehensive in their approach to riparian restoration, advocating for and coordinating the follow-up actions necessary to achieve full restoration after invasive vegetation control. Without the organizing and coordinating efforts of RiversEdge West, restoration actions on these river systems would be isolated efforts on fragmented reaches, often without the follow-up and site maintenance tasks required to protect initial restoration actions.

These efforts will bolster practices on private and public lands across Colorado as well as distribute best practices and proven successes across Colorado's diverse river basins. Please give strong consideration to funding RiversEdge West's application.

Sincerely,



Jim Pokrandt  
Chair, Colorado Basin Roundtable



**Noxious Weed & Pest Management**  
P.O. Box 20,000 Department #5087  
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5001  
Phone: (970) 255-7121 Fax: (970) 244-1700  
[weed.pest@mesacounty.us](mailto:weed.pest@mesacounty.us)  
Mesa County

October 18, 2019

Dear Reviewing Committee Members,

As Coordinator of Mesa County's Noxious Weed & Pest Management program, I extend my support to RiversEdge West and their request for funding to support the Desert Rivers Collaborative and Dolores River Restoration Partnership through the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Mesa County Noxious Weed & Pest Management works closely with RiversEdge West in many facets of riparian restoration and appreciates their support and technical advice to all land management agencies through the Grand Valley. We believe that field work accomplished through the strike team will bring attention to areas that are backlogged and will make management of those areas more feasible in the future. By creating a riparian restoration and monitoring framework for the Western Slope, we and all land management agencies in the area will benefit.

Your consideration of support for RiversEdge West and this application is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me should you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Montana Cohn

Mesa County Noxious Weed & Pest Coordinator



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Grand Junction Field Office  
2815 H Road  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506



Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St  
Denver, Colorado 80203

OCT 25 2019

To whom it may concern:

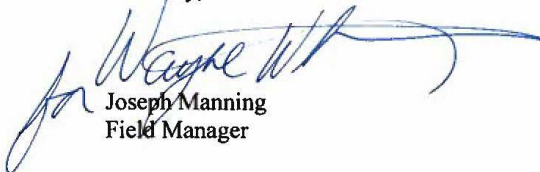
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is providing this letter in support of RiversEdge West's grant proposal for the continuing riparian work of the Desert Rivers Collaborative and the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP). RiversEdge West has been a valuable partner to multiple BLM field offices, other agencies and private land owners by developing and implementing long-term strategies to remove and monitor invasive species along the Dolores, Colorado and Gunnison River.

Our office has worked with the DRRP for ten years now, restoring native vegetation along the Dolores River by using different outlets such as our trained weeds technicians, Western Colorado Conservation Corps crews and contractors to complete manual and mechanical treatments, monitor and reseed along the Dolores. Since 2009, the DRRP has coordinated the removal of 1,700 acres of initial tamarisk removal.

In recent years, the partnership has transitioned into a larger role in monitoring and maintenance in order to ensure years of work is kept up with. The BLM supports continuous monitoring and the implementation of a stewardship strike team focused on secondary weed treatments, tamarisk re-sprout treatments, and revegetation efforts. 2018 monitoring data from the Grand Junction Field Office show that only 2% of sites have greater than 50% tamarisk cover, yet over 90% of sites are infested with russian knapweed, and about 30% do not meet the willow or cottonwood threshold. In 2018 alone, the DRRP completed 31 acres of initial tamarisk removal, 94 acres of tamarisk re-sprout treatment, 106 acres of secondary weed control, and 35 acres of revegetation.

The Desert Rivers Collaborative and DRRP's coordination and longstanding vision have been crucial to protecting and maintaining riparian habitat in western Colorado, and establishing longer-term funding is essential for maintaining and monitoring these accomplishments.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph Manning  
Field Manager



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Uncompahgre Field Office  
2465 South Townsend Ave  
Montrose, CO 81401



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

RE: Rivers Edge West's application to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program

Mr. Sturm,

I am writing to support Rivers Edge West's application to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program to support riparian restoration along the Dolores and Colorado rivers. Their efforts further the work of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership. The Bureau of Land Management, through three field offices in Colorado, is a partner of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership and invested in restoring the habitat along and within the Dolores River. We value the strong role Rivers Edge West 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 Rivers Edge West'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 Rivers Edge West 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 corners 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  
Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office

INTERIOR REGION 7 • UPPER COLORADO BASIN  
COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, UTAH, WYOMING





IN REPLY REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Upper Colorado Region  
Western Colorado Area Office  
445 West Gunnison Avenue, Suite 221  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

10/25/2019

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

RE: RiversEdge West's application to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program

Dear Mr. Sturm,

I am writing to express our support for RiversEdge West's application to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program to support riparian restoration along the Colorado, Gunnison and Dolores Rivers. These efforts further the work of the Desert Rivers Collaborative and the Dolores River Restoration Partnership to improve and maintain healthy riverine ecosystems, reduce wildfire risk and impacts, minimize the spread of invasive phreatophyte vegetation, enhance water quality and quantity, and create local jobs.

Both of these partnerships maintain broad-based support from local and regional interests, ranging from local nonprofits to state governments and federal agencies. The various tasks proposed in this grant application exemplify a commitment to collaboration, as evidenced by the myriad partners involved in project planning and implementation. As well, these river restoration partnerships are comprehensive in their approach to riparian restoration, advocating for and coordinating the follow-up actions necessary to achieve full restoration after invasive vegetation control. Without the organizing and coordinating efforts of RiversEdge West, restoration actions on these river systems would be isolated efforts on fragmented reaches, often without the follow-up and site maintenance tasks required to protect initial restoration actions.

The US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is committed to supporting strategies, such as those employed by RiversEdge West that restore and protect river ecosystems within the Colorado River basin, including the restoration and protection of flows and riparian ecosystems.

These efforts will bolster practices on private and public lands across Colorado as well as distribute best practices and proven successes across Colorado's diverse river basins. Please give strong consideration to funding RiversEdge West's application.

Sincerely,

Melissa Werkmeister

**MELISSA  
WERKMEISTER**

Digitally signed by  
MELISSA WERKMEISTER  
Date: 2019.10.25 13:25:52  
-06'00'



**FRUITA**  
COLORADO

325 East Aspen  
Suite 155  
Fruita, CO 81521

P 970.858.3663  
F 970.858.0210  
www.fruita.org



CITY MANAGER  
970.858.3663

CITY CLERK/FINANCE  
970.858.3663

COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
970.858.0786

MUNICIPAL COURT  
970.858.8041

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
970.858.3008

ENGINEERING  
970.858.8377

HUMAN RESOURCES  
970.858.8373

PUBLIC WORKS  
970.858.9558

PARKS/RECREATION  
970.858.0360

WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT FACILITY  
970.858.4081

October 25, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Sturm,

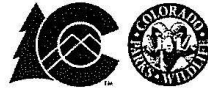
Guiding principles 1 and 9 of the City of Fruita's Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan highlight the importance the Colorado River and the Big and Little Salt Washes have to our community. Preserving, rehabilitating and celebrating our waterways are integral to the Fruita community. Over the past 10 years, the City of Fruita has actively worked to remove invasive plant species at many of its parks and open space areas along the Colorado River and Big and Little Salt Washes.

We have coordinated with groups such as the Western Colorado Conservation Corp as well as RiversEdge West to make progress in restoring these riparian areas and we will continue to do so in the future. The City of Fruita's, Parks Crew leader spends on average 120 hours a year (his pay rate is \$27.94 per hour) coordinating the various activities to mitigate invasive species. This coming spring as with every spring for the past 8-10 years, WCCC will be at several sites in Fruita for two weeks removing tamarisk and Russian olive while training their crews for the upcoming season. We pay WCCC \$3,000 for these weeks of saw crews and purchase \$1,600 of herbicide they use to treat tamarisk and Russian olive. In addition, we contract out (\$3,600 per year) services to treat white top and Russian knapweed as well as treat any new regrowth of tamarisk and Russian olive. We anticipate we will spend \$11,500 in 2020 to treat invasive species along the Colorado River and the two washes that dissect Fruita.

The City is in full support of RiversEdge West's application to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program to support riparian restoration along the Dolores and Colorado Rivers. Their efforts further the work of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership and the Desert Rivers Collaborative to improve and maintain healthy riverine ecosystem, reduce wildfire risks and impacts, minimize the spread of invasive phreatophyte vegetation, enhance water quality and quantity and support local jobs.

Thank you,

Mike Bennett  
City Manager  
City of Fruita



**COLORADO**  
**Parks and Wildlife**

Department of Natural Resources

James M. Robb-Colorado River State Park  
P.O. Box 700  
Clifton, CO. 81520  
P 970.434.3388 | F 970.434.6878

October 22, 2019

Mr. Chris Sturm  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St. #721  
Denver, CO. 80203

RE: RiversEdge West application to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program

Mr. Sturm, this is a letter of support for the RiversEdge West grant application. RiversEdge West has been in contact with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to establish priorities for riparian restoration and habitat maintenance. Recent, large-scale habitat improvement projects have reduced the amount of Tamarisk and Russian Olive within the Grand Valley; however this has created an increased need for habitat monitoring and follow up treatments.

During the winter of 2018/2019, RiversEdge West was able to employ a two person "strike team" to provide follow up control of Tamarisk and Russian Olive re-sprouts and monitor site conditions. This was a pilot project and the purpose of this grant will be to continue hiring a crew on a longer-term basis and allow continued upkeep of areas where significant stands of Russian Olive and Tamarisk were previously removed.

This grant application will allow us to improve our restoration success by leveraging existing funds historically allocated to habitat improvement. While I cannot guarantee future funding or staffing levels I feel comfortable that we will be able to commit to the 50% cost share associated with this grant.

We have received funding for at least one week of Conservation Corps work each year since 2010 (\$10,420) and have allocated at least \$11,500/year to chemical treatment of weeds within the park. Additionally, we can commit at least \$1,680 in employee wages and \$500/year in chemical purchases.

Please contact me if you have any questions pertaining to this grant or our role within the partnership.

Sincerely,

Pete Firmin

Park Manager, James M. Robb-Colorado River State Park

Dan Prenzlowl, Director, Colorado Parks and Wildlife • Parks and Wildlife Commission: Taishya Adams • Robert W. Bray • Charles Garcia • Marie Haskett  
Carrie Besnette Hauser • John Howard, Chair • Marvin McDaniel • Luke B. Schafer • Eden Vardy • James Vigil, Secretary • Michelle Zimmerman, Vice-Chair





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

RE: RiversEdge West's application to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program

Mr. Sturm,

I am writing to support RiversEdge West's application to the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program to support riparian restoration along the Dolores and Colorado rivers. Their efforts further the work of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) and the Desert Rivers Collaborative to improve and maintain healthy riverine ecosystems, reduce wildfire risk and impacts, minimize the spread of invasive phreatophyte vegetation, enhance water quality and quantity, and support local jobs.

Along with RiversEdge West, Conservation Legacy's Southwest Conservation Corps has been an integral part of the 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 2020, we are committed to providing cash match from Walton Family Foundation funds for \$51,700 to support monitoring, volunteer events, and project planning.

Regards,

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

Emily Kasyon  
Watershed Programs Coordinator



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

October 10, 2019

I am writing this letter of support and commitment of the Western Colorado Conservation Corps for RiversEdge West's application for the Colorado Water Conservation Board grant. This funding would allow us to continue the work and collaborative efforts of the Desert Rivers Collaborative as well as the Dolores River Restoration Partnership.

The Western Colorado Conservation Corps of Partners (WCCC) has been a part of both the Desert Rivers Collaborative as well as the Dolores River Restoration Partnership for several years. The proposal for this funding would allow all of us to continue our efforts along the river corridor, and that is something the WCCC can get behind. We at the WCCC enjoy working with other groups in a collaborative effort. We have had the opportunity to work with RiversEdge West on multiple projects. The WCCC has done an enormous amount of work on the Colorado, Dolores and Gunnison rivers. We had the opportunity to work on projects funded in the past with CWCB funds. We can not think of a better opportunity to keep the momentum going on these projects and to ensure that all our efforts over the years have been done in vain.

The Western Colorado Conservation Corps is a program of Mesa County Partners, a 501 (c)3 nonprofit that provides youth and young adults with an environmentally focused educational and employment experience. The WCCC works closely with government agencies and other nonprofits to provide opportunities for young people in western Colorado. Corps members have the opportunity to learn life skills and provide service to their community, as well as take on civic and environmental responsibilities designed to enrich their lives and their surroundings. The WCCC's purpose is to serve youth in western Colorado through service by improving their community and gaining valuable life experience for their success in the future.

This project would allow the two to three-person strike team to carry out maintenance and monitoring work along the river corridors. This application is clearly in line with the mission of the Western Colorado Conservation Corps.

The Western Colorado Conservation Corps is committed to assisting RiversEdge West as well as the Desert Rivers Collaborative and the Dolores River Restoration Partnership in improving and enhancing the river corridors here in Western Colorado.

Sincerely,

Jeff Roberts, Director  
Western Colorado Conservation Corps  
2818 1/2 North Ave.  
Grand Junction Co. 81504  
970-241-1027 x 12



**Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant Program Application**  
**ATTACHMENT F: Pictures**



**Figure 1. DRRP Strike Team preparing backpack sprayers**



**Figure 2. Active revegetation in the Grand Valley**



**Figure 4. Students planting cottonwoods along Dolores River**



**Figure 3. DRRP priority site (Bedrock, CO)**



**Figure 5. DRRP Monitoring Crew**



**Figure 6. DRRP Priority site**

# ATTACHMENT G: Implementation Schedule and Site List

Task 1	Date	Activity
	April - June 2020	Identify and convene technical advisory committee for framework
		Research and compile information for framework development
	July-Sept 2020	Host a second committee meeting for framework development
		Refine ranking criteria for framework
	Oct.-Dec. 2020	Host a committee meeting for framework development
		Finalize Framework and post resources online
	Ongoing	Participate in Stream Management and IWMP planning processes as necessary

Task 2	Date	Activity
	April - June 2020	Develop rapid monitoring program for the DRC
		Conduct monitoring training for DRC partners
	July - Sept. 2020	Conduct monitoring on treated sites on DRRP and DRC
	Oct- Dec 2020	Create outward-facing maps with data for DRRP and DRC
		Enter and analyze monitoring data in geodatabase
	July-Sept. 2021	Conduct monitoring on treated sites on DRRP and DRC
	Oct- Dec 2021	Enter and analyze monitoring data in geodatabases
	Ongoing	Maintain and update DRC & DRRP geodatabases with monitoring data

Task 3	Date	Activity
	Jan - March 2020	Treating high priority DRRP sites
	July - Sept. 2020	Conduct monitoring on sites in DRC area
	July-Sept. 2021	Conduct monitoring on sites in DRC area
	Ongoing	Strike Team conducts treatments on DRRP/ DRC stretches

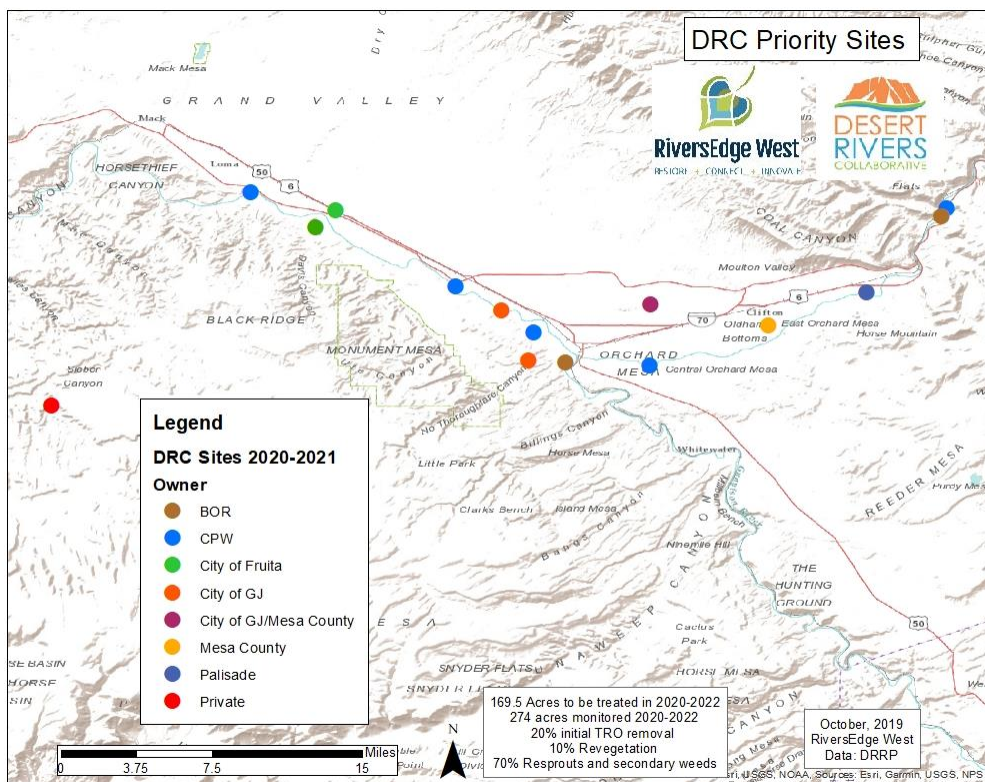
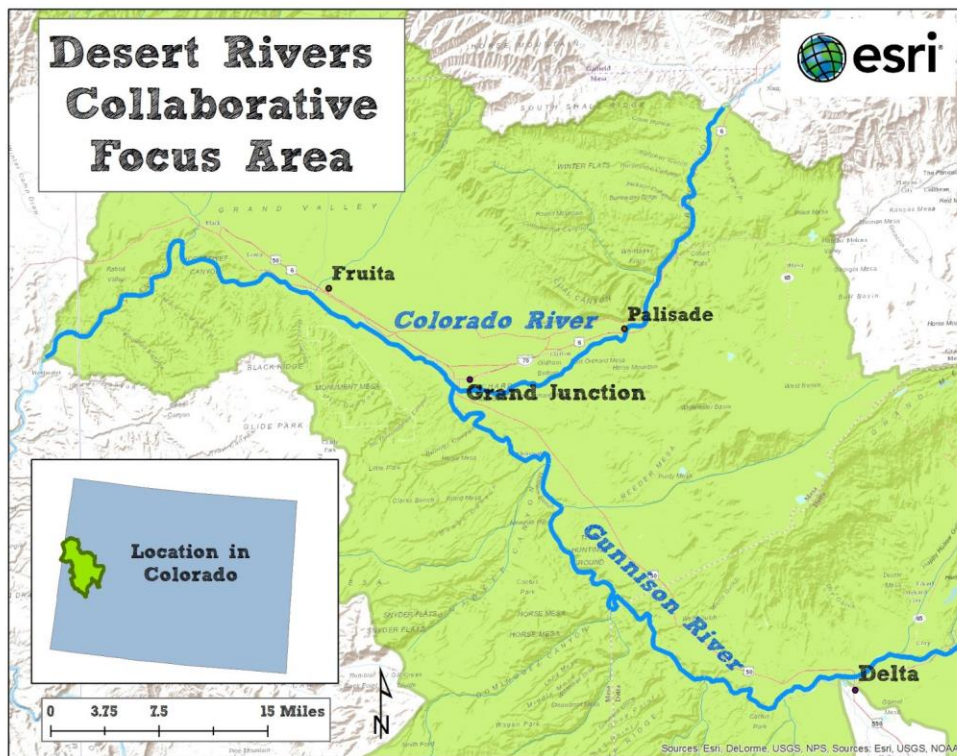
DRC Site Priorities					
Site	Manager	Size (Acres)	Treatments	Labor Source	Time (weeks)
Indian Wash	City of Grand Junction	2	Initial removal	Strike Team	1
Monument Road	City of Grand Junction	4	Re-sprouts, initial removal	Strike Team	.5
Redlands Park	City of Grand Junction	2	Secondary weeds	Strike Team	.5
Riverbend Park	Town of palisade	1.5	Initial TRO removal, secondary weeds	Strike Team, Contractors, Full Crew	3
Other Lower Valley State Wildlife Areas	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	14	secondary weeds, revegetation	Strike Team	4
Horsethief State Wildlife Area	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	100	secondary weeds, revegetation	Strike Team	2
Connected Lakes	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	4	secondary weeds, revegetation	Strike Team	2

Island Acres	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	2	secondary weeds, re-sprouts	Strike Team	1
29 Rd./ Pear Park	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	5	re-sprouts, revegetation, secondary weeds	Strike Team	1
Fruita Parks	City of Fruita	1	Re-sprouts, revegetation	Strike Team	2
Orchard Mesa Wildlife Area	Bureau of Reclamation	3	secondary weeds, Re-sprouts	Strike Team	1
Colorado River Wildlife Area: Cameo	Bureau of Reclamation	12	secondary weeds, revegetation	Strike Team	2
Mesa County Properties	Mesa County	6	secondary weeds, revegetation	Strike Team	3
Mountain Island Ranch	Private	13	TRO initial removal and re-sprouts	Strike Team, Contractor	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>169.5</b>			<b>25</b>

DRRP Site Priorities					
Site	Field Office (FO)	Size Acres	Treatments	Labor Source	Time (Weeks)
Paradox Valley/SM Confluence	UFO	17	Initial TRO removal, re-sprouts	Strike Team	2
Upstream Bedrock boat ramp	UFO	15	Initial removal, re-sprouts, revegetation	Strike Team	4
Grimes (Private)	UFO	6	Initial removal, secondary weeds	Strike Team/ Contractor	2
RM 120-121	GJFO	4	Secondary weeds	Strike Team	2
OP Ranch	GJFO	3	Re-sprouts	Strike Team	2
Little Maverick Confluence (RR)	GJFO	10	Re-sprouts	Strike Team	3
Above Stateline	GJFO	12	Re-sprouts, revegetation	Strike Team	3
Little Glen Canyon	TRFO	28	Secondary weeds, revegetation	Strike Team	2
Various roadside areas	TRFO	20	Secondary weeds	Strike Team	2
Near Slickrock	TRFO	16	Secondary weeds, revegetation	Strike Team	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>122</b>			<b>25</b>

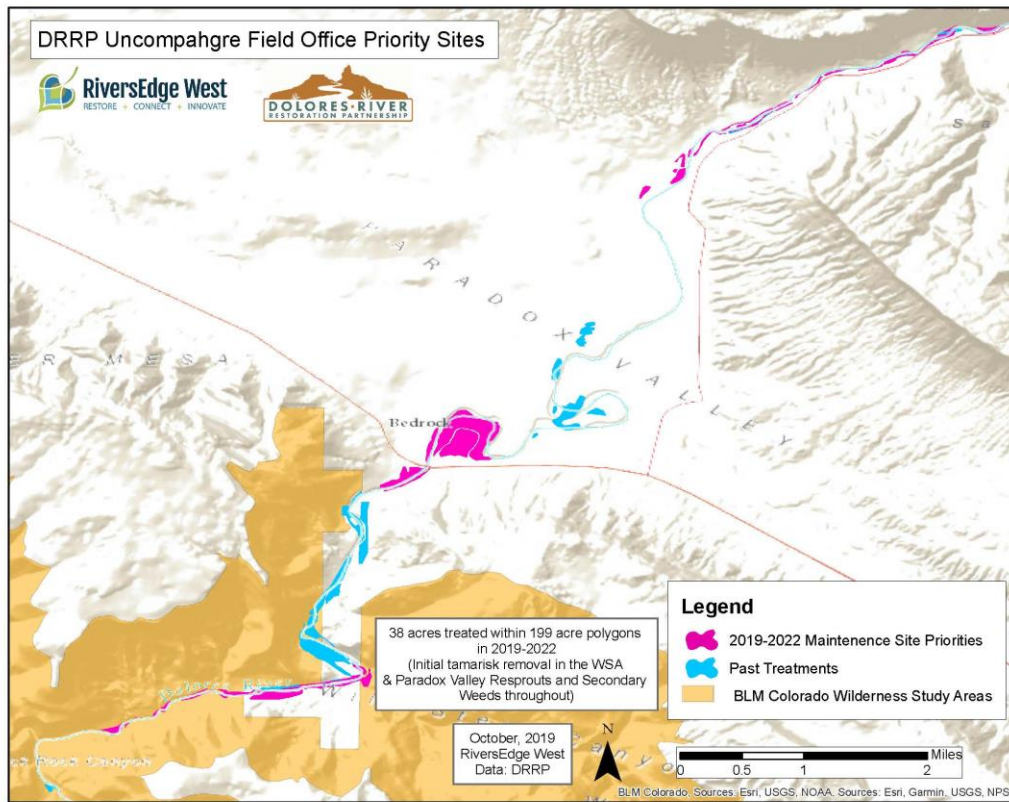
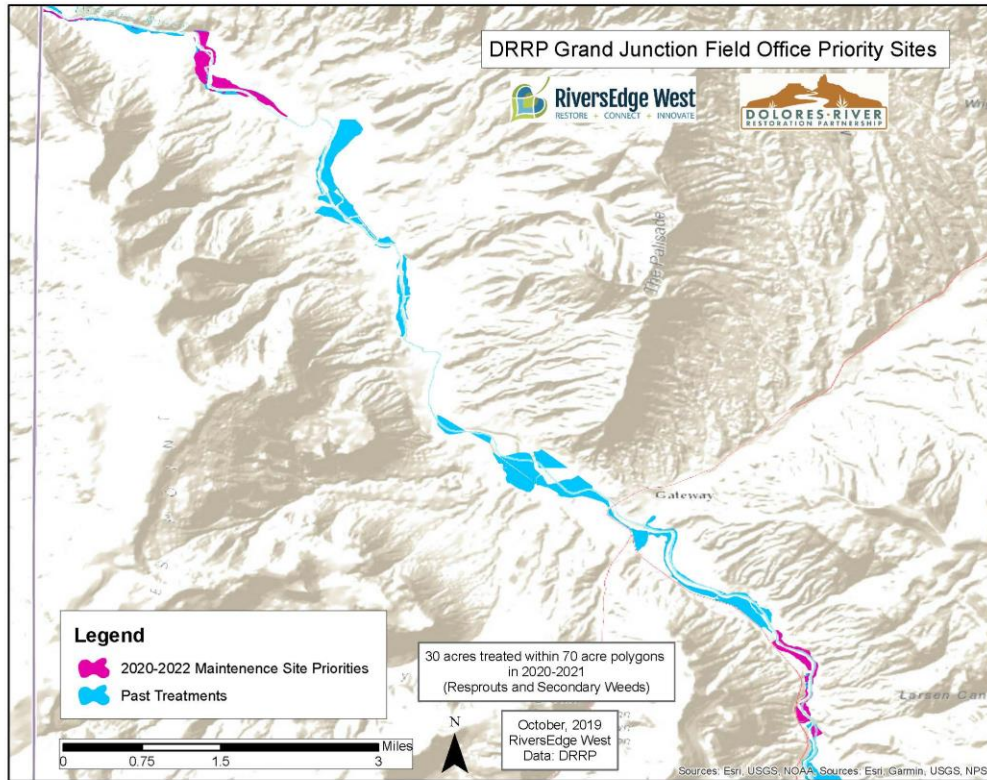


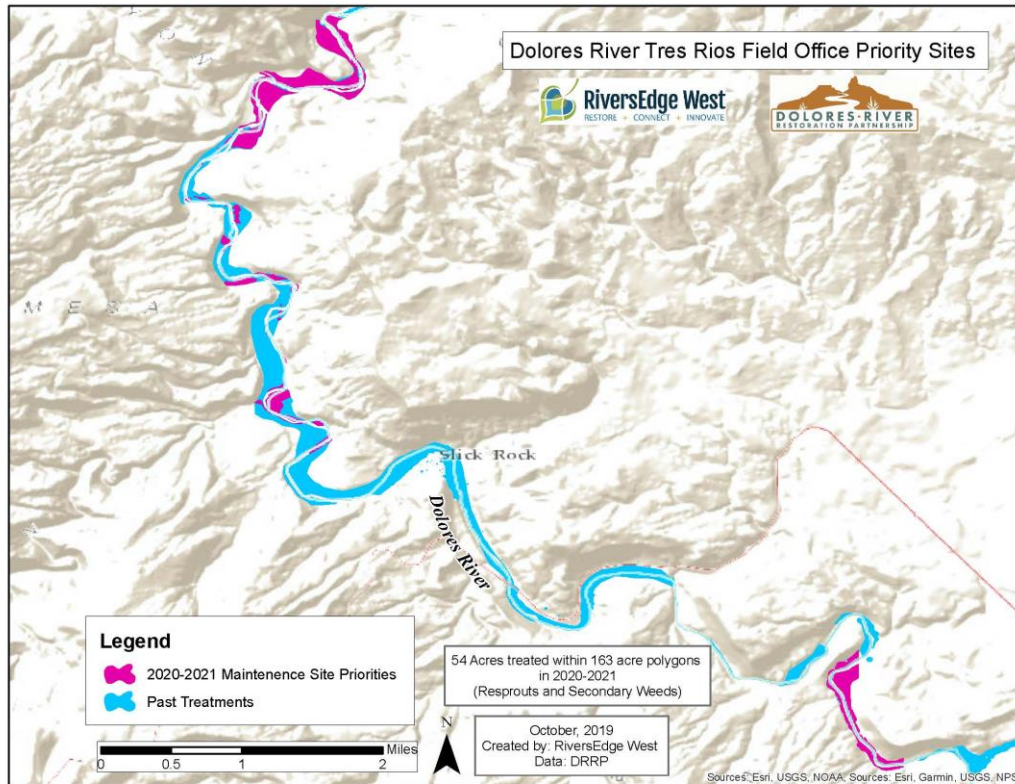
**Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant Program Application**  
**ATTACHMENT H: Proposal Maps**











**Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant Program Application**  
**ATTACHMENT I: RiversEdge West Active Project Team Resumes**

The following is an overview of the REW staff and hours projected to be spent on this project over a two-year period. This proposal will be executed with a diverse group of agencies and organizations in addition to REW staff as indicated in the qualification evaluation section above.

- Executive Director, Rusty Lloyd - 50 hours = .01 FTE
- Associate Director, Shannon Wadas- 180 hours = .04 FTE
- Restoration Coordinator, Rica Fulton- 1940 hours = .47 FTE
- Restoration Coordinator, John Leary- 100 hours = .02 FTE
- Restoration Coordinator, Mark Briggs- 100 hours = .02 FTE
- Funding Program Coordinator, Kristen Jespersen - 150 hours = .03 FTE
- GIS Coordinator, Ben Bloodworth, 220 hours = .05 FTE

**Rusty Lloyd**, Executive Director - Rusty has been with REW since January of 2011. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Kansas State University and a Masters of Public Administration from University of Colorado, Denver. He has over 20 year of experience working in the public and nonprofit sectors. Prior to REW he spent six years as the director of the Western Colorado Conservation Corps and has worked in natural resource management with several federal and state governments in KS and CO.

**Shannon Wadas**, Associate Director - Shannon has worked for since November of 2018. Shannon holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Outdoor Recreation with a minor in Biology. Shannon worked for Colorado Parks and Wildlife for 10 years and most recently served as the northwest regional representative for U.S. Senator Michael Bennet. She covered six counties and filled various congressional aide roles including constituent advocacy, outreach on legislation and specific policy objectives, and planning and staffing the senator on official visits to the region. As the Associate Director of RiversEdge West, Shannon enjoys utilizing her natural resource experience, along with her management and leadership skills, to support staff and the overall mission of the organization

**Rica Fulton**, Restoration Coordinator – Rica has been with REW since June of 2019 and holds a Bachelors in Environmental Studies and Geographic Information Systems at Fort Lewis College in Durango, and a Master’s Degree at the University of Wyoming in Geography, Water Resources, and Environment and Natural Resources. Rica worked for a Geospatial Firm, Quantum Spatial, as a Remote Sensing Analyst and subsequently as an Associate Team Lead. This work was predominantly for utility companies, providing detailed vegetation classification and analysis. Her time at Quantum Spatial provided her strong technical abilities in LiDAR and GIS, leadership skills, as well as detailed project management experience.

**John Leary**, Restoration Coordinator – John has been with REW since June of 2019 and holds a Bachelors in Geography and Spanish from University of Montana and Masters Degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Northern Arizona University, where he researched how farmer perceptions of ecosystem services influence tree management and habitat connectivity in Costa Rica. After graduating spent several years working on backcountry trails, vegetation monitoring, and ecological restoration



projects in Montana and the Southwest, including two years restoring riparian areas along Arizona's Verde and Gila rivers.

**Mark Briggs**, Restoration Coordinator/Ecologist - Mark is a stream restoration ecologist with over 25 years of experience working on rivers across the western U.S. and northern Mexico, including the Rio Grande/Bravo, Rio Conchos, Colorado River and its delta, Santa Cruz River, Little Colorado River, Gila River. He has a Bachelor's of Science in biology from the University of Delaware (1983) and Masters of Science in watershed management from the University of Arizona (1992). Mark spent a decade working on stream conservation efforts with the Sonoran Institute (1992-2002, Tucson, Arizona), five years as a restoration consultant (2002 – 2007) and, 12 years with the World Wildlife Fund's Fresh Water and Rio Grande/Bravo Programs where he led a bi-national response to bring back the Rio Conchos and Rio Grande/Rio Bravo in west Texas, northern Chihuahua and Coahuila. His technical publications include a book on developing river restoration projects and numerous articles on restoration, monitoring, and natural resource research.

**Kristen Jespersen**, Funding Program Coordinator - Kristen works with practitioners to procure short-term and long-term funding for project work and coordinates capacity building activities with partnerships. Kristen has more than 15 years of experience with land management and conservation planning both in the private and public sectors. She earned a Master of Arts in International Policy Studies from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, CA and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Reed College in Portland, OR.

**Ben Bloodworth**, GIS/Beetle Program Coordinator – Ben has worked at REW since 2013. He works as a Program Coordinator, focusing on the Tamarisk Beetle Program and organization-wide GIS responsibilities. Having worked in wetlands for almost twenty years, with an emphasis on restoration for the last twelve. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, and a Masters of Science in Environmental Science from Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage, Alaska.