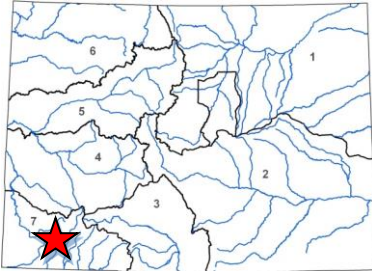




## Dolores River Restoration Project Implementation and Support Mesa, Montrose and San Miguel Counties

January 2022 Board Meeting

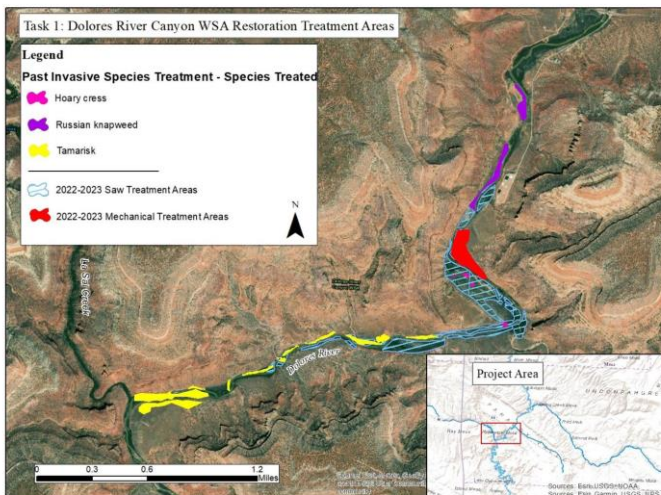
### Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Application



L O C A T I O N	
County/Countries:	Mesa, Montrose, San Miguel
Drainage Basin:	Southwest

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$420,223
Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Request:	\$188,695
<b>Recommended amount:</b>	\$150,000
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$227,707
Applicant Match:	\$3,821
Project Type(s):	Project
Project Category(Categories):	Watershed and Stream Restoration
Measurable Result:	Removal of invasive species, seeding and revegetation of riparian areas, secondary invasive treatments, monitoring reports

The purpose of this project is to implement logistically complex and critical riparian restoration projects along the Dolores River in the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area in Montrose County; increase coordination capacity for the Dolores River Restoration Partnership; and to help implement site-specific maintenance projects along the Dolores River in areas identified by monitoring data and the Dolores River Restoration Partnership' (DRRP) site prioritization matrix.



This project will work to achieve the following objectives:

1. Conduct 11.41 acres of interspersed primary tamarisk removal and 23.35 acres of tamarisk re-treatments along the riparian area in the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) with saw crews and specialized strike teams.
2. Conduct 6 acres of initial tamarisk removal and re-seeding in WSA.
3. Coordinate 2 DRRP annual meetings, 1 field trip, create outreach materials, organize 2 volunteer events, fundraise, manage and plan strike teams, crews, and contractors; work on implementation plans with BLM partners, facilitate monitoring, and other DRRP coordination needs.
4. Coordinate strike teams and conservation corps saw crews to conduct tamarisk re-treatments and revegetation on at least 45 acres of riparian land along the Dolores in the Grand Junction, Uncompahgre and Tres Rios Field Offices.
5. Monitoring up to 900 acres of the Dolores River in the BLM Tres Rios and Grand Junction Field Offices.

**Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Colorado Watershed Restoration Grant  
Conservation Legacy Project Proposal Summary Sheet**

**Project Title:** Dolores River Restoration Project Implementation and Support

**Project Location** (include map and/or latitude/longitude if applicable): Dolores River from below McPhee Reservoir to the town of Gateway, Colorado in Mesa, Montrose, San Miguel Counties.

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

**Grant Request:** \$188,695

**Amount Cash Match Funding:** \$227,707

**In-kind Match Funding:** \$3,821

**Project Sponsor:** Conservation Legacy

**Address:** 701 Camino Del Rio, Durango, CO 81301

**Contact Information:**

Nate Peters, Watershed Programs Manager

Phone: (970) 903-0839

Email: Npeters@conservationlegacy.org

**Estimated Completion Date:**

12/31/2023

**Brief Description of the Project:** The purpose of this project is to implement logistically complex and critical riparian restoration projects along the Dolores River in the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area in Montrose County; increase coordination capacity for the Dolores River Restoration Partnership; and to help implement site-specific maintenance projects along the Dolores River in areas identified by monitoring data and the DRRP's site prioritization matrix.

**Cooperating Partners:** The key cooperating partners are RiversEdge West, Mesa County; 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).

**Proposal Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Scope of Work
- Attachment B: Overall Budget and Timeline Table
- Attachment C: Detailed Budget
- Attachment D: Maps
- Attachment E: Photos
- Attachment F: Staff Bios
- Attachment G: Letters of Support

## **Introduction**

On behalf of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP), Conservation Legacy's Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) is requesting \$188,695 to complete tamarisk removal, follow-up tamarisk and secondary weeds treatments and provide capacity for project planning and coordination. The DRRP is a collaborative group that has been working across boundaries since 2009 to remove tamarisk and restore ecological integrity to the Dolores River corridor below McPhee Dam to the confluence with the Colorado River in Utah. With approximately 69% of tamarisk removed along the Dolores River since the beginning of the partnership, this proposal builds on a legacy of success and furthers the DRRP's vision of a self-sustaining and ecologically functioning Dolores River.

## **Project Sponsor and Stakeholders**

The lead project sponsor is Nate Peters, Conservation Legacy's Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) Watershed Programs Coordinator. SCC is program of Conservation Legacy, a 501(c)(3) non-profit based in Durango, CO. SCC operates conservation service programs that encourage stewardship, foster community, emphasize experiential learning, and serves a diverse population including youth, graduates, veterans, and a cross-section of ethnicities and income levels.

Rica Fulton, Restoration Coordinator and Kristen Jespersen, Funding Program Coordinator, will provide additional project management, DRRP organizational support, grant management, outreach, additional fundraising, and other assistance.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff from Tres Rios, Uncompahgre, and Grand Junction Field Offices will also play a large role in project management and planning as well as implementation and on-the-ground support.

## **Project Background**

The Dolores River once provided vibrant stream side habitat that supported a wide array of wildlife and native fish. The river is valued for recreational opportunities, with scenic vistas, unique geology, archaeology and cultural history. Today the invasion of tamarisk and other invasive plants affects the health of the Dolores River. Their growth has displaced native plants, increased wildfire risks, impaired wildlife and fish habitat, and diminished recreation access. Watersheds in Colorado are an invaluable resource and restoring the health of the riparian areas is integral to the health of the entire local ecosystem. Since 2009, the DRRP has been working to restore the Dolores River which has been impaired by invasive plants.

The DRRP's work is guided by tamarisk mapping completed by the Tamarisk Coalition (now RiversEdge West) in 2007, the [2010 Dolores River Riparian Action Plan \(DR-RAP\)](#), the [2014 DRRP Transition Plan to Monitoring and Maintenance \(M&M\)](#), and rapid vegetation monitoring assessments conducted annually since 2014. Together, these guiding plans and assessments outline the DRRP's shared goals, associated measurable objectives, method for site prioritization, strategies for long term monitoring and maintenance, and governance structure that supports collaborative project development, implementation of restoration work, and evaluation of work to track progress towards ecological goals as well as adapt practices to maximize effectiveness. The Transition Plan for M&M was developed and approved in 2014 to strategize the transition from intensive restoration efforts to follow-up monitoring

and maintenance at a site-by-site level to assure ecological restoration success throughout the watershed.

The activities conducted under the DR-RAP and the M&M plan are identified as priorities in the BLM's National Healthy Lands, Resilient Landscapes; BLM Field Offices' Resource Management Plans; Utah and Colorado State Wildlife Action Plans; Counties' Noxious Weed Management Plans; Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway Corridor Management Plan; and Middle Colorado River Watershed CWMA Cooperative Agreement.

Additionally, the Dolores River is designated as a Bird Habitat Conservation Area by the Intermountain West Joint Venture, is an Identified Project and Process in the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan, and directly advances the policies and goals stated in the Colorado Water Plan by working to remove invasive plants and restore native fish and wildlife habitat along the imperiled Dolores River. This project also aligns with and is guided by Colorado Parks and Wildlife's 2006 Range-wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Roundtail Chub (*Gila robusta*), Bluehead Sucker (*Catostomus discobolus*), and Flannelmouth Sucker (*Catostomus latipinnis*.)

### **History of Accomplishments**

SCC and REW have led the DRRP since its inception in 2009, when a diverse group of stakeholders came together to address the massive infestation of tamarisk along the riparian corridor from McPhee Dam to the Colorado River. Over the past decade, the DRRP has been working collaboratively to restore riparian habitat across two states, four BLM field offices, five counties, and more than 26 engaged private lands and has removed 1,918 acres of tamarisk, reflecting about 69% of the total tamarisk that was originally along the river. The partnership has also re-treated 2,600 acres of tamarisk re-sprouts, treated 3,589 acres of secondary weeds, and conducted 613 acres of active revegetation. The DRRP has also hosted numerous volunteer events, stewardship projects, workshops, service-learning days with volunteers, local schools, and landowners.

The DRRP encompasses numerous partners that work on projects and collaborate on a consistent basis. These relationships are solidified in an MOU that was re-signed in 2020 with 22 signatories including the Bureau of Land Management (Tres Rios, Uncompahgre, Grand Junction & Moab Field Offices; Southwest Colorado District, Upper Colorado River District, and Canyon Country Utah Districts); State of Colorado Counties of Dolores, Montrose, San Miguel, & Mesa; State of Utah County of Grand; RiversEdge West; Bird Conservancy of the Rockies; Conservation Legacy's Southwest Conservation Corps; Four Corners Water Center at Fort Lewis College, Four Corners School of Outdoor Education Canyon Country Youth Corps; Western Colorado Conservation Corps; Department of Energy; Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Gateway Canyons Resort; Dolores River Boating Advocates.

### **Implementation Activities and Monitoring**

This funding from CWCB will be used to complete the following activities:

- Tamarisk removal in the Dolores River Canyons Wilderness Study Area
- DRRP Collaborative Support
- Tamarisk removal and maintenance downstream of Salt Creek

See the attached Scope of Work for a full description of proposed activities.

All tamarisk and secondary weeds treatments are recorded in the field by the conservation corps crews completing the work. Crews are given tablets enabled with Field Maps for ArcGIS, where they make polygons of areas they have treated and collect data on herbicide usage, species treated, etc. This data is immediately synced to the DRRP's ArcGIS database, where accomplishments are tracked. This allows the DRRP to measure acres treated for different tasks.

A comprehensive rapid monitoring program has been in place along the Dolores River since 2014 which informs annual implementation plans, reflects the success of restoration methods, maps weed infestations, and tracks overall riparian health. Given that restoration is a long-term process, the DRRP and corresponding monitoring program is critical in measuring success. Each of the three BLM field office's encompassing the Dolores River in Colorado is monitored every year, so every site that has had restoration activities or has activities planned is monitored every three years. Following a monitoring season, DRRP coordinators from SCC and REW work with the corresponding field office to develop a 3-year implementation plan.

This cadence of monitoring and planning allows the DRRP to allocate resources within an adaptive management framework, respond to changing environmental conditions, and measure success with a consistent set of metrics.

### **Multi-Objective Approach**

Project Objectives include:

- Conduct 11.41 acres of interspersed primary tamarisk removal and 23.35 acres of tamarisk re-treatments along the riparian area in the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) with saw crews and specialized strike teams.
- Conduct 6 acres of initial tamarisk removal and re-seeding in WSA.
- Coordinate 2 DRRP annual meetings, 1 field trip, create outreach materials, organize 2 volunteer events, fundraise, manage and plan strike teams, crews, and contractors; work on implementation plans with BLM partners, facilitate monitoring, and other DRRP coordination needs.
- Coordinate strike teams and conservation corps saw crews to conduct tamarisk re-treatments and revegetation on at least 45 acres of riparian land along the Dolores in the Grand Junction, Uncompahgre and Tres Rios Field Offices.
- Monitoring up to 900 acres of the Dolores River in the BLM Tres Rios and Grand Junction Field Offices.

This project encompasses multiple objectives related to watershed health including, phreatophyte control, habitat improvement, fire mitigation, community stewardship and young adult engagement, recreational opportunity enhancement, and improving floodplain connection.

As stated above, nearly 70% of the initial tamarisk along the Dolores River from McPhee Reservoir to the confluence with the Colorado River has been treated, and this proposal aims to continue to address the hard-to-reach areas in the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in Montrose County and downstream of the Salt Creek Confluence in Mesa County. The effort described in the Scope of Work for Task 1 builds on work of the DRRP and BLM in the past two years to improve the wilderness characteristics in the WSA. The WSA is prized for its beauty and is

popular for boating, hiking, hunting, and other recreational activities. Opening up the river corridor through tamarisk removal will improve shore access and increase aesthetic value for recreationists. Phreatophyte control in the WSA and downstream of Salt Creek will remove dense stands of tamarisk, reducing the risk of fire and enabling the establishment and growth of native riparian vegetation. This will improve complexity in the vegetation community and enhance habitat. Diverse native riparian vegetation along the river provides cover, shelter, nesting sites, and forage for a variety of wildlife species including mule deer, desert bighorn sheep, elk, bears, beavers, otters, and a myriad of fish and birds. Removal of tamarisk will increase floodplain connectivity by reducing bank armoring, allowing water to move into low lying areas during high flows and increasing valuable backwater habitat for fish.

Tamarisk resprout and secondary noxious weed treatments protect investments that the DRRP has made in the last 12 years and helps sites along their trajectory towards native vegetation dominance. DRRP monitoring data shows that there is passive recruitment of desirable native species in the sites downstream of Salt Creek, indicating that this area is close to restoration success if the DRRP can prevent secondary weeds from hindering establishment and growth of native species.

All treatment activities will use conservation corps crews. This allows the DRRP to train and educate young people looking to get more experience in river restoration. Conservation corps members specifically will get training in chainsaw use, herbicide application, and riparian plant identification through the activities in this proposal. Participants will also gain knowledge about restoration practices and invasive species control as well as gain skills in leadership and collaboration. These AmeriCorps members often go on to careers in conservation and land management.

DRRP collaborative support will allow the DRRP to engage partners and local communities through partnership meetings, field trips, communication materials, and volunteer events. One of the DRRP's goals is to educate people about river restoration and build support for conservation. Volunteer projects directly engage people in community stewardship projects where they can experience restoration first-hand. Communication materials, such as social media posts or presentations, help spread the word about the benefits of restoration and enable the DRRP to contribute lessons learned to the broader restoration community. Partnership meetings are key to collaboration and allow the DRRP stakeholders to stay engaged.

All the activities in this proposal are part of the DRRP's larger implementation plans for 2022 and 2023 that include more initial tamarisk removal, tamarisk follow-up treatments, control of secondary weeds, monitoring, and active revegetation (planting and seeding of native vegetation) across many sites on the Dolores River and major tributaries.

## Matching and In-kind Funds

The tasks associated with this project have broad support among the DRRP, which is reflected in cash and in-kind matching contributions from a variety of partners. The following table reflects in-kind and cash contributions for each task.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Contributing Entity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Task 1 – Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area Tamarisk Removal	Bureau of Land Management (pending)	\$28,900
	SCC Restore Colorado (secured)	\$18,000
	BLM – Uncompahgre Field Office (secured)	\$3,440
	BLM AA (2,500 pending)	\$27,000
	BLM (In-kind)	\$3,300
	SWCD – (Pending)	\$2,205
	<b>Task 1 Total:</b>	<b>\$53,945</b>
Task 2 – DRR Collaborative Support	Walton Family Foundation (secured)	\$20,800
	Telluride Foundation (pending)	\$5,000
	DRRP Restore Our Rivers (secured)	\$8,428
	DRRP BLM AA (secured)	\$9,985
	SCC Restore Our Rivers (secured)	\$8,692
	<b>Task 2 Total:</b>	<b>\$52,905</b>
Task 3 – Dolores River Restoration Maintenance and Monitoring	SCC Restore Colorado (secured)	\$60,000
	Forever Our Rivers Foundation (pending)	\$12,000
	DRRP BLM AA (secured)	\$11,500
	CYCA GOCO Grant - Mesa County applicant (Pending)	\$25,500
	Walton Family Foundation (secured)	\$14,500
	Mesa County (in-kind)	\$521
	BLM (secured)	\$385
	<b>Task 3 Total:</b>	<b>\$124,406</b>

## **Scope of Work**

### **Attachment A**

**GRANTEE and FISCAL AGENT:** Conservation Legacy

**PRIMARY CONTACT:** Nate Peters

**ADDRESS** 701 Camino Del Rio. Durango, CO 81301

**PHONE** (970) 903-0839

**PROJECT NAME:** Dolores River Restoration Support

**GRANT AMOUNT:** \$188,695

#### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

This project is part of the Dolores River Restoration (DRRP)'s ongoing efforts to reduce the infestation of tamarisk and increasing the ecological resilience along the Dolores River below McPhee Dam to the confluence with the Colorado River in Utah. Since 2009, the DRRP has been extremely successful reaching goals; removing almost 2,000 acres of tamarisk, implementing an effective monitoring program, working with diverse stakeholders, conducting a myriad of revegetation projects, and maintaining tamarisk removal work.

This project achieves three major objectives that support the long-term restoration and the overall health of the Dolores River. First, this proposal builds on restoration work already started in the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) which is a priority for the DRRP and BLM. Given the remote nature of the WSA, comprehensive logistical and project plans are in place to implement the project. Second, the applicants are seeking additional capacity funding for project management and critical DRRP tasks. Finally, additional resources are needed to efficiently implement vital maintenance work including tamarisk re-sprout and secondary weed treatments that were identified in the most recent DRRP restoration site prioritization process.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

List the objectives of the project. Please include objectives for all aspects of the project whether funded by the CWCB or not.

- Conduct 11.41 acres of interspersed primary tamarisk removal and 23.35 acres of tamarisk re-treatments along the riparian area in the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) with saw crews and specialized strike teams.
- Conduct 6 acres of initial tamarisk removal and re-seeding in WSA.
- Coordinate 2 DRRP annual meetings, 1 field trip, create outreach materials, organize 2 volunteer events, fundraise, manage and plan strike teams, crews, and contractors; work on



implementation plans with BLM partners, facilitate monitoring, and other DRRP coordination needs.

- Coordinate strike teams and conservation corps saw crews to conduct tamarisk re-treatments and revegetation on at least 45 acres of riparian land along the Dolores in the Grand Junction, Uncompahgre and Tres Rios Field Offices.
- Monitor up to 900 acres of the Dolores River in the BLM Tres Rios and Grand Junction Field Offices.

## **TASKS**

### **TASK 1 – Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area Tamarisk Removal**

#### Description of Task

The DRRP and BLM Uncompahgre Field Office have been working in the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) since the fall of 2019 to remove tamarisk and improve the health of the riparian area. The WSA is a remote area that is challenging to access, therefore additional resources are required to get crews and equipment into the work areas. In 2019, 2020, and 2021 crews horse-packed into the WSA and have removed 23.35 acres of scattered tamarisk from the riparian area. This project would build on that past work by conducting re-treatments, seeding the area with native grass seed and forbs, and provides funds for a contractor with mechanical equipment to masticate and finely mulch a 6-acre old age class monotypic stand of tamarisk that is cost prohibitive and logistically challenging with chainsaws. This project will help improve wilderness characteristics in the area, promote native vegetation regeneration, improve recreational experiences, increase habitat quality, and reduce the risk of wildfire.

Implementation of this project will occur over a year and a half, first with four weeks of conservation corps saw crews that will work with local horse packers to bring in supplies to a backcountry camp. The corps will work over 9.2 acres to clear scattered tamarisk from around native vegetation and strike teams from Western Colorado Conservation Corps and Southwest Conservation Corps will work over two years to conduct active revegetation, treat tamarisk re-sprouts and secondary weeds (e.g., Russian knapweed,) and work with the contractor to treat stumps with herbicide and broadcast native seed following mechanical removal of tamarisk.

REW and SCC will work closely with the BLM to manage this project and ensure project specifications result in a high-quality outcome. This will be achieved by conducting multiple site visits, continuing to map treatments and track monitoring data, conducting outreach as necessary, and working closely with conservation corps and contractors.

#### Method/Procedure

The project area is located in Bedrock, Colorado on federal lands within the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area over approximately 38.45 acres between the Bedrock Boat Ramp and the

confluence with La Sal Creek (see map in Attachment C.) Project methods can be broken into three categories:

1. Tamarisk resprout treatments: tamarisk in the WSA has been treated in the past two years and a minimal amount of resprouts is expected over a 23.35 acre area on river left and right. Two-and-three-person strike teams that work seasonally with the DRRP from Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) and Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) will treat young tamarisk in the riparian area using a basal bark method with Garlon 4 (Triclopyr). This work will occur in the fall during dry weather conditions.
2. Primary tamarisk removal with chainsaws will occur over 11.41 acres on river left and right. Saw crews from WCCC and SCC will conduct this work using the cut stump method and they will lop and scatter the slash in the project area. Garlon 4 (Triclopyr) will be carefully applied to the stumps with hand sprayers within 10 minutes of being cut. These areas have good native vegetation recruitment, and the tamarisk is interspersed with native vegetation (i.e., not monotypic stands). This work will reduce seed source, mitigate fire risk around native vegetation, and reduce competition with native species.
3. A large old age class monotypic stand of tamarisk over a 6-acre area will be treated with mechanical equipment. A masticator head attachment on a mini excavator will slash the mature trees with the first pass, then with a drum or disc mulcher, will make more passes as needed to chip the mulched branches to the specifications below:
  - a. Mulch will be fragmented into pieces smaller than 5" on average and spread 2-3" deep.
  - b. Strike Teams will treat stumps with herbicide to the best possible extent following the mechanical treatments.
  - c. Once the mulch is evenly distributed, Strike Teams will broadcast native seed mixed with mycorrhizal inoculant and the equipment will make another pass over the area to integrate the seed mixture into the mulch. The mulch will help protect seedlings from temperature, wind, predation, and retain moisture. Mulch when appropriately chipped and distributed will help suppress weeds, which is a major barrier to restoration following large invasive species removal projects. Taking the additional step of mulching with the drum or disc mulcher will save resources in the future.
  - d. In subsequent years, Strike Teams will re-visit the site to treat tamarisk resprouting through the mulch, since it will be impossible to see all the stumps during the initial treatment.

Additional funding will contribute to revegetation efforts, follow-up treatments, and monitoring of this site.

#### Deliverables

- 6 acres of tamarisk mulched and chipped by a contractor
- 23.32 acres of tamarisk re-treated as needed by strike teams
- 11.41 acres of scattered tamarisk treated with Conservation Corps saw crews
- At least 6 acres of seeding and revegetation on riparian sites

## **TASK 2 – Dolores River Restoration Partnership Collaborative Support**

### Description of Task

The DRRP has been a critical partnership contributing to the long-term health of the riparian area along the Dolores River. The DRRP has a proven track record of successful restoration, conducting long-term maintenance and monitoring, diverse partner engagement, and fundraising. The leadership of Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) and RiversEdge West (REW) is key in maintaining institutional knowledge, organization and maintenance of geospatial data, ensuring collaboration and relationships are maintained, organizing watershed-wide implementation planning across boundaries, conducting consistent fundraising, and are integral in successful on-the-ground implementation.

Funds allocated within this task would provide additional capacity for SCC's Watershed Programs Coordinator, REW's Restoration Coordinator, and REW's Funding Program Coordinator.

#### Method/Procedure

SCC's Watershed Programs Manager is responsible for hiring, training, and managing SCC's Dolores River Restoration Strike Team that works along the Dolores nine months of the year; working with the BLM, REW and partners to develop implementation plans; managing and performing QC on the data the monitoring team collects; working with partners to conduct outreach and organize events; and managing the robust geodatabase.

REW's Restoration Coordinator is responsible for coordinating annual partnership meetings and field trips; managing multi-year budgets and fundraising; working with the BLM and SCC on annual implementation plans; managing the DRRP geodatabase; participating in related collaborative processes, assisting partners with technical assistance; organizing volunteer and stewardship events; and other relevant organizational tasks.

REW's Funding Program Coordinator helps the DRRP stay on-track with fundraising, updating budgets, and with funding applications.

#### Deliverables

- Meeting minutes and agenda for two partnership meetings and description of field trips
- Development of outreach materials (e.g., social media posts, presentations of relevant restoration projects, etc.)
- Monitoring Reports

### **TASK 3 – Dolores River Restoration Maintenance and Monitoring**

#### Description of Task

Over the past 11 years, the DRRP has successfully reduced the infestation of tamarisk along the Dolores River riparian corridor by at least 69%. Given that restoration is a long-term process, the DRRP is committed to following through after initial tamarisk removal with re-treatments, secondary weed

mitigation, and active revegetation. The DRRP has developed a site prioritization framework that uses monitoring data to identify and prioritize what areas resources will be allocated to, and the sites identified in task three came from this process, resulting in efficient and cost-effective achievement of secondary restoration objectives.

This task is focused on four sites on private and BLM lands over 45 acres. It is anticipated that one more year of tamarisk and Russian knapweed treatment will lead to self-sustaining areas that meet the ecological criteria the DRRP set given the positive passive native vegetation recruitment indicated by the DRR monitoring data. This work will be conducted in the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023 with strike teams and larger conservation corps crews; in a model that facilitates leadership roles among corps groups, relationship building, and is proven to have positive restoration outcomes.

### Method/Procedure

**Monitoring:** Since 2014, the DRRP has conducted yearly Rapid Monitoring, collecting data on a 3-year interval on all sites throughout the watershed that have undergone primary tamarisk treatment as well as sites planned for initial tamarisk removal. Approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of all restoration sites are monitored every year. Each year, a monitoring team is trained according to the DRRP's specific vegetation monitoring protocol to collect site-specific data that includes an assessment of non-native and native plant cover, mapping of noxious weed infestations, documentation of passive recruitment of native species, and photo-points to visually assess progress over time. Monitoring data is housed in a partnership-wide geodatabase and formal reports are compiled every year for land managers and partners to inform future restoration activities on a site-by-site basis. This monitoring work will help track the progress of the work outlined in this proposal and ensure it is followed up on and maintained into the future. The two-person monitoring team is paid for with matching funds.

**Maintenance:** Follow-up treatments are imperative to successful restoration, as some amount of tamarisk or Russian olive re-growth is unavoidable. The DRRP has developed a highly successful partnership with SCC and WCCC in hiring two different restoration strike teams dedicated to the Dolores River that conduct maintenance work nine months of the year. Maintenance work includes tamarisk re-sprout treatments, secondary weed treatments (primarily Russian knapweed and hoary cress), active revegetation (seeding and planting of native vegetation), and targeted removal of other species of concern, primarily Russian olive and Siberian elm.

Within this scope, the Strike Teams and saw crews will conduct tamarisk re-sprout treatments on a large area in the Grand Junction Field Office on BLM and private lands just downstream of the confluence with Salt Creek; treating at least 16.5 acres. The tamarisk in this area was treated initially in 2014 and requires some targeted re-treatments. However, monitoring data is showing positive passive revegetation with native species, so no active revegetation is anticipated.

Crews will also conduct mosaic treatments of initial tamarisk on 5 acres in the same project area (see maps in Attachment B.) Initial removal below the confluence with Salt Creek will take place in the floodplain to discourage further bank armoring and connect historic side channels to improve fish

habitat and promote floodplain connectivity. This site also correlates with a study area of the Dolores River Adaptive Management Support project.

#### Deliverables

- At least 23 young adult corps members engaged in restoration work
- At least 16.5 acres of tamarisk and secondary weeds re-treated in the project area with funding from this proposal
- 5 acres of initial tamarisk removal with funding from this proposal
- At least 65 acres of additional tamarisk re-sprouts treated with matching funding

## Budget & Timeline Table

### Attachment B

Task	Description	Target Start Date	Target Completion Date	CWCB Funds	Other Funding Cash*	Other Funding In-Kind*	Total
1	Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area Tamarisk Removal	10/1/22	11/31/23	\$80,060	\$50,645	\$3,300	\$134,005
2	Dolores River Restoration Partnership Collaborative Support	04/01/22	11/31/23	\$51,943	\$53,177		\$104,970
3	Dolores River Restoration Maintenance and Monitoring	04/01/22	11/15/23	\$56,692	\$123,885	\$521	\$166,098
4							
5							
6							
7							
	<b>TOTALS</b>			\$188,695	\$227,707	\$3,821	\$405,073

\*Please include new columns for different sources of cash and/or in-kind funding sources. Identify the funding source.

## Detailed Budget: Attachment C

Task 1/Dolores River Canyon Wildernes Study Area Tamarisk Removal										
Staff/Partner Time(for 1.5 years)	# Hours	Rate	Total	CWCB Portion	CWCB %	Match Portion	Match %	Match Source	Notes	
WCCC Saw Crews	4 weeks	\$8,500/wk.	\$ 34,000	\$ 17,000	0%	\$ 17,000		BLM AA (REW)		
WCCC strike team	5 weeks	\$3,000/week	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,000		\$ 3,000		SCC Restore - NFWF		
SCC Strike Team	4 weeks	\$5,000/week	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,000	33%	\$ 15,000		SCC Restore - NFWF		
Herbicide	20 gallons	\$385/5-gallons	\$ 1,540	\$ -	0%	\$ 1,540		100% UFO BLM		
Mycorrhizal inoculant	350 lbs.	\$315/50 lbs.	\$2,205			\$2,205		SWCD (REW)	Pending	
Native Grass Seed	180 lbs.	\$17/lb.	\$ 3,060	\$ 3,060	100%	\$ -				
Horse Packing	6 days	\$500/day	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	100%	\$ -				
Contractor	25 days	\$2,000/day	\$ 50,000	\$ 40,000	0%	\$ 10,000		BLM UFO, BLM AA (REW)	\$2,500 Pending	
Equipment Rental	1 week	\$1,900/wk.	\$ 1,900	\$ -	0%	\$ 1,900		BLM UFO		
BLM Ecologist	60	\$55.00/hr	\$ 3,300	\$ -		\$ 3,300		In-kind		
			\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -				
Subtotal			\$ 134,005	\$ 80,060		\$ 53,945				

Expenses (for 2 years)	Unit Cost	# of Units	Total	CWCB Portion	CWCB %	Match Portion	Match %	Match Source		
Mileage	\$ 0.56		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -				
			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -				
			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -				
Subtotal			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -				
Task 1 total			\$ 134,005	\$ 80,060	60%	\$ 53,945				

Task 2/Dolores River Restoration Partnership Collaborative Support										
Staff/Partner Time(for 1.5 years)	# Hours	Rate	Total	CWCB Portion	CWCB %	Match Portion	Match %	Match Source	Notes	
Southwest Conservation Corps Watershed Programs Manager	1290	\$32/hr	\$ 56,255	\$ 30,455		\$ 25,800		WFF, Telluride Foundation		
REW Funding Program Coordinator	80	\$46.75/hr	\$ 3,740	\$ 1,870	50%	\$ 1,870	50%	DRRP ROR Fund (REW)		
REW Associate Director	40	\$49.25/hr	\$ 1,970	\$ 985	50%	\$ 985	50%	BLM AA (REW)		
REW Restoration Coordinator	900	\$37.76/hr	\$ 41,983	\$ 18,083		\$ 23,900		BLM AA (REW), Forever Our Rivers Foundation (REW), SCC Restore Colorado, DRRP ROR Fund (REW)		
Printing supplies			\$ 350	\$ 150		\$ 350		BLM AA (REW)		
			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -				
			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -				
			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -				
			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -				
			\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -				
			\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -				
			\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -				
			\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -				
			\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -				
Subtotal			\$ 104,298	\$ 51,543		\$ 52,905				

Expenses (for 2 years)	Unit Cost	# of Units	Total	CWCB Portion	CWCB %	Match Portion	Match %	Match Source		
Mileage	\$ 0.56	1200	\$ 672	\$ 400		\$ 272		BLM AA (REW)		
			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -				
			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -				
Subtotal			\$ 672	\$ 400		\$ 272				
Task 1 total			\$ 104,970	\$ 51,943	49%	\$ 53,177				

**Task 3/Dolores River Restoration Maintenance and Monitoring**

Staff/Partner Time (for 1.5 years)	# Hours	Rate	Total	CWCB Portion	CWCB %	Match Portion	Match %	Match Source	Notes
			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -			
SCC Strike Team	13 weeks	\$5,000/wk.	\$ 50,000	\$ 15,000		\$ 50,000		SCC Restore Colorado Grant	
Western Colorado Conservation Corps Restoration Strike Team	20 weeks	\$3,000/week	\$ 63,500	\$ 30,000	45%	\$ 33,500		Restore Colorado Grant (SCC), BLM, Forever Our Rivers Foundation	
Conservation Corps Saw Crews	4 weeks	\$8,500/week	\$ 34,000	\$ 8,500	50%	\$ 25,500	50%	GOCO CYCA Grant (Mesa County ap	pending
Herbicide	15 gallons	\$385/5 gallon	\$ 1,537	\$ 1,152	75%	\$ 385	25%	REW Forever Our Rivers Foundation	
Native Grass Seed	120 lbs.	\$17/lb.	\$ 2,040	\$ 2,040	100%	\$ -			
Rapid Monitoring	\$2,900/week		\$ 14,500	\$ -	0%	\$ 14,500	100%	SCC Walton Family Foundation	
Mesa County	20 hours	\$26.06/hr	\$ 521	\$ -	0%	\$ 521		Mesa County - in kind	
			\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -			
			\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -			
			\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -			
			\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -			
			\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -			
Subtotal			\$ 166,098	\$ 56,692		\$ 124,406			

Expenses (for 2 years)	Unit Cost	# of Units	Total	CWCB Portion	CWCB %	Match Portion	Match %	Match Source	
Mileage	\$ 0.56		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -			
			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -			
			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -			
Subtotal			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -			
Task 3 total			\$ 166,098	\$ 56,692	34%	\$ 124,406			

Total Cost	\$ 405,073
Total cost CWCB	\$ 188,695
Total Matching Funds	\$ 231,528

April 22 - Dec. 23



## Attachment D: Maps

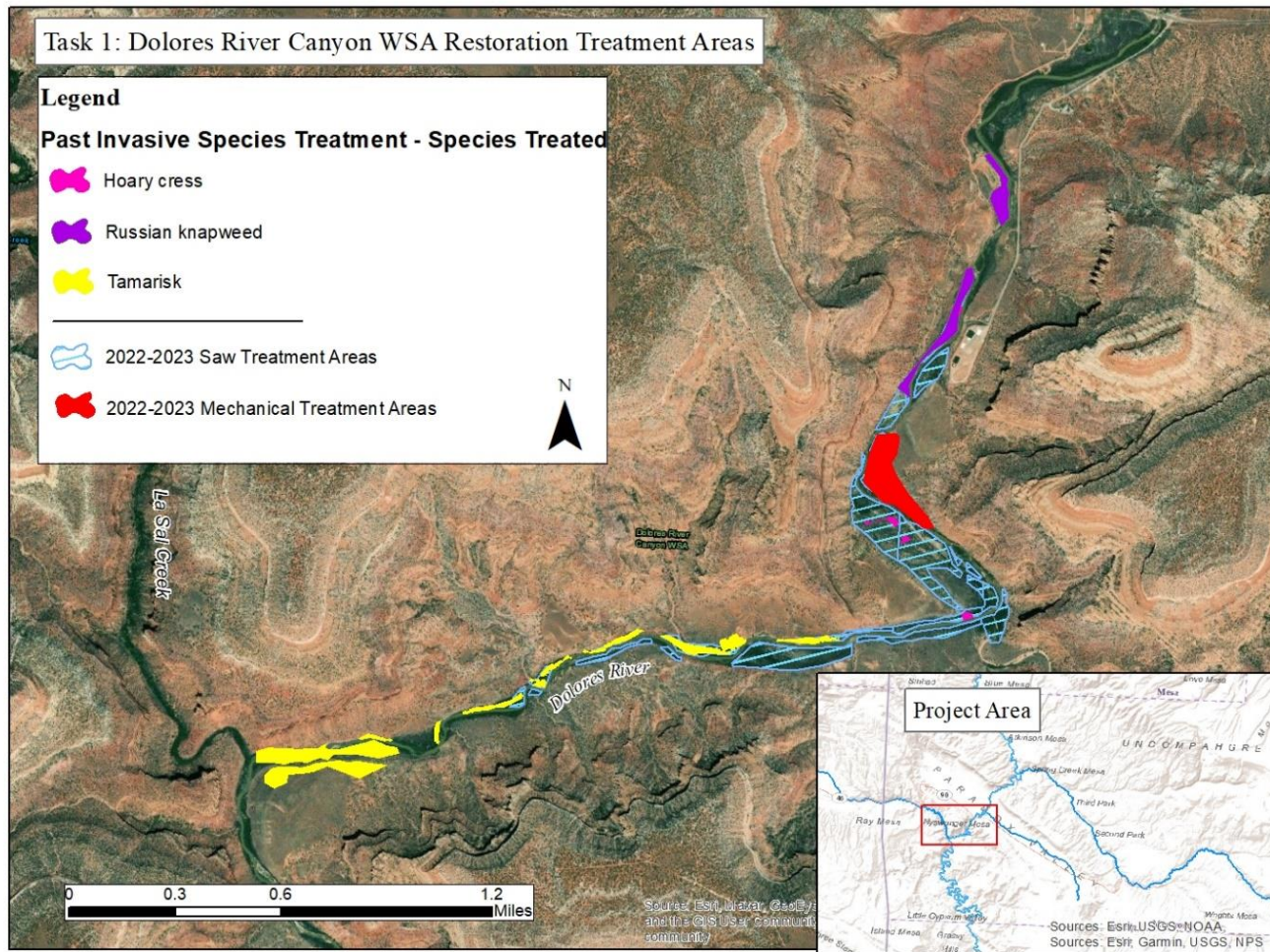
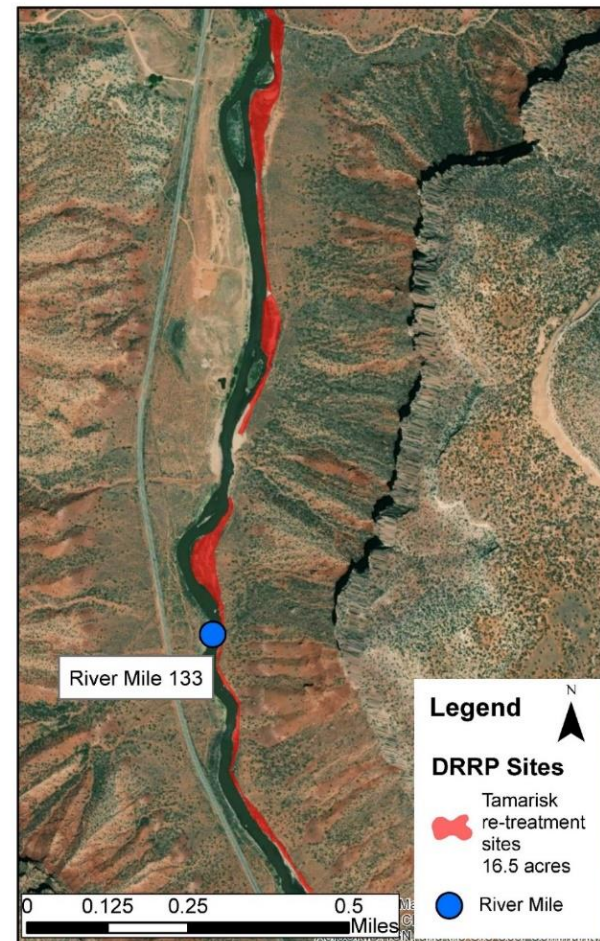


Figure 1: Map showing work areas described in Task 1

Initial Tamarisk Removal  
Dolores River Downstream Salt Creek



Tamarisk Re-Treatment Area  
Dolores River Downstream Salt Creek





**Pictures**  
**Attachment E**



*Figure 1. WCCC Crews horse packing into the WSA in March, 2021*



*Figure 2. Crew member cutting tamarisk along the Dolores River in the WSA*

## Staff Bios: Attachment F

Nate Peters, Watershed Programs Manager; Southwest Conservation Corps: 2120 hours = .53 FTE

- Nate has been working with Conservation Legacy programs since June of 2018 and holds a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Science and Policy from Plymouth State University in Plymouth, NH. Nate has 10 years of experience working with national service-based conservation programs. Nate has extensive experience in project coordination, conservation corps crew management and habitat restoration practices.

Rica Fulton, Restoration Coordinator; RiversEdge West: 1940 hours = .47 FTE

- Rica has been with REW since June of 2019 and holds a bachelor's 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 has experience in project management, collaboration and stakeholder engagement, natural resource management with federal, private, and non-profit entities.

Kristen Jespersen, Funding Program Coordinator – 150 hours = .03 FTE

- 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.

Letters of Support: Attachment G



November 1, 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St.  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: Conservation Legacy – CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant Application

Dear Mr. Sturm,

I would like to express support on behalf of RiversEdge West (REW) for Conservation Legacy's Colorado Water Conservation Board Watershed Restoration Grant Proposal. Conservation Legacy and REW have worked closely together for over a decade coordinating the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP,) and this project illuminates the new trajectory of the DRRP focused on targeted habitat areas and implementing more logistically complex projects.

This project supports three major pillars of the DRRP's work: 1) implementation of the Dolores River Canyon WSA tamarisk removal project that has been in the planning phase for at least four years. 2) critical coordination capacity for project management, geodatabase management, outreach, and fundraising. 3) additional funding for maintenance and habitat projects along the Dolores River using two-and-three-person strike teams. The strike team framework has proven to be very cost effective and enables the partnership to maintain and steward restoration effectively. We have seen the riparian area become more diverse, accessible, and have observed wildlife utilizing treatment areas in greater numbers.

Furthermore, the DRRP is an ideal platform to continue to coordinate this work given the large quantity of data, network of relationships and stakeholders, and understanding of restoration techniques specific to the Dolores River.

REW manages many of the funding listed as matching funds in this proposal and additional DRRP funds not reflected in this application. REW commits to providing and administering \$62,484 of matching funds noted in the detailed budget in the application.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon Wadas".

Shannon Wadas  
Associate Director  
RiversEdge West  
[swadas@rivesedgewest.org](mailto:swadas@rivesedgewest.org)

FEIN 27-0007315  
[www.RiversEdgeWest.org](http://www.RiversEdgeWest.org)  
P.O. Box 1907 1 Grand Junction, CO 81502  
Advancing the restoration of riparian lands through collaboration, education, and technical assistance.



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



November 1, 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St.  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: Conservation Legacy – CWCW Watershed Restoration Grant

Dear Chris Sturm,

I am writing this letter on behalf of The Bureau of Land Management, Grand Junction Field Office to express support for Conservation Legacy's Colorado Water Conservation Board Watershed Restoration Grant. Conservation Legacy and the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) have a proven track record of consistent restoration work and strong collaboration with stakeholders on the Dolores River.

The Dolores River is of high priority to our Field Office given the important habitat it provides and diverse vegetation encompassing the river. The BLM has put significant investments into tamarisk removal and weed maintenance. This project will ensure those investments are maintained in a cost-effective way. Given challenges such as drought, wildfire and invasive species, continued stewardship and restoration projects will become increasingly important.

This project, managed by the DRRP, will utilize two and three person "strike teams" to provide invasive species maintenance work along the Dolores River, which is critical to maintain restoration work conducted over the past eleven years. This project encompasses sites the BLM and DRRP coordinators have identified that require maintenance and active revegetation activities.

We are happy to consult with DRRP coordinators throughout the duration of this project as it relates to vegetation treatments, habitat improvements and any other needs. The BLM will continue to provide project funding and staff and field office support as resources allow to support the long-term maintenance of these projects. Please contact me if there are any questions.

Kind regards,

**WAYNE  
WERKMEISTER**

Digitally signed by WAYNE  
WERKMEISTER  
Date: 2021.11.01 12:56:22 -06'00'

Greg Wolfgang  
Field Manager  
970-244-3000





## United States Department of the Interior

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



Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St.  
Denver, Colorado 80203

November 2, 2021

RE: Conservation Legacy – CWCW Watershed Restoration Grant

Dear Chris Sturm,

I am writing this letter on behalf of The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office to express support for Conservation Legacy's Colorado Water Conservation Board Watershed Restoration Grant. Conservation Legacy and the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP), have a proven track record of consistent restoration work and strong collaboration with stakeholders on the Dolores River.

The Dolores River is of high priority to our Field Office given the important habitat it provides and diverse vegetation encompassing the river. The BLM has put significant investments into tamarisk removal and weed maintenance and this project will ensure those investments are maintained in a cost-effective way. Given challenges such as drought, wildfire, and invasive species, continued stewardship and restoration projects will become increasingly important. This project managed by the DRRP will utilize two and three person "strike teams" to provide invasive species maintenance work along the Dolores River, which is critical to maintain restoration work conducted over the past eleven years. This project encompasses sites the BLM has identified with DRRP coordinators that require maintenance and active revegetation activities.

We are happy to consult with DRRP coordinators throughout the duration of this project as it relates to vegetation treatments, habitat improvements, and any other needs. The BLM will continue to provide project funding and staff and field office support as resources allow to support the long-term maintenance of these projects. Please contact me if there are any questions.

Kind regards,

**SUZANNE  
COPPING**

Digitally signed by SUZANNE COPPING  
Date: 2021.11.02 14:41:15 -06'00'

Suzanne Copping  
Field Manager, Uncompahgre Field Office

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