



WHITE RIVER

PARTNERSHIP

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Photo by Utah Conservation Corps



WHITE RIVER

PARTNERSHIP

MISSION

The White River Partnership (WRP) is committed to restoring and maintaining healthy riparian areas along the White River in northwest Colorado and northeast Utah through collaboration among public, private, and non-profit entities.

VISION

The White River is a dynamic riverine ecosystem where the threats from Russian olive, tamarisk, and related invasive plant species have been mitigated and native, resilient vegetation communities reflect a healthy river system beneficial to fish and wildlife habitat that supports the ecological, social, and economic sustainability of the multiple land uses found along the White River corridor.

In 2020, WRP efforts focused on formalizing the partnership, restoration planning, and continuing restoration implementation.



The White River south of Bonanza, Utah

COLLABORATION AND RESTORATION

8 MEETINGS

In 2020, the WRP held eight meetings where partners collaboratively developed:

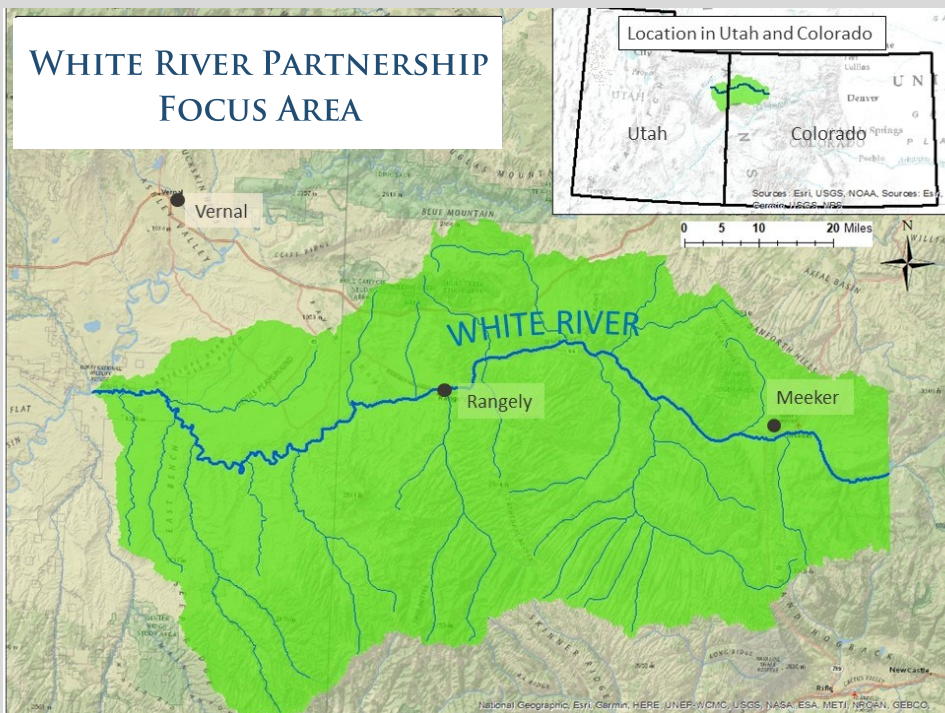
- > Mission and Vision statements
- > Memorandum of Understanding
- > Goals and Objectives
- > A coordinated approach to research, planning, restoration, and monitoring
- > Implementation and partnership goals

25 PARTNERS

Over 25 partners attended the meetings, including:

- > Federal, state, and tribal entities
- > City and county governments
- > Conservation and water districts
- > Private landowners
- > Universities
- > Non-profit organizations
- > Industries

WHITE RIVER PARTNERSHIP FOCUS AREA



The White River Partnership is located in northwest Colorado and northeast Utah



WRP partners on a site visit to Douglas Creek, a major tributary of the White River in Colorado.

WHITE RIVER PARTNERS ARE DEVELOPING PLANS TO ADDRESS DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF RIPARIAN RESTORATION:

The White River Partnership's restoration plan provides a framework to guide the restoration of riparian lands impacted by tamarisk, Russian olive, and associated invasive plant species. Utah State University's White River Conservation, Restoration and Monitoring Plan will improve habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species including endangered and conservation priority fishes. The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts' Integrated Water Initiative includes riparian health assessments to document baseline data and identify potential needs for riparian improvements.

Partners are working together to ensure that these plans complement one another in working towards greater riparian health in the White River basin.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



Since 2017, the WRP has
**ENGAGED OVER
100 YOUNG ADULTS,**
providing important career training and
environmental education while working
towards the ecological goals of the WRP.

*Left: Removing invasive tamarisk to support the
regrowth of native vegetation (Photo by Western
Colorado Conservation Corps).*

*Below: Conservation corps members take a
break from removing invasive Russian olive
trees (Photo by Utah Conservation Corps).*

In 2020, The WRP
**ENGAGED OVER 20
YOUNG ADULTS**

in hands-on conservation work through
conservation corps.



ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT

The WRP's efforts to restore native riparian vegetation communities enhances habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, including endangered, conservation agreement, and state conservation priority species.



BEFORE



AFTER

Invasive tamarisk and Russian olive trees crowd out native vegetation, which increases the risk of wildfire, degrades habitat for wildlife, and reduces access for recreation and agriculture (Photos by Utah Conservation Corps). Below: Partners discuss restoration goals on a ranch near Rangely, CO.

IN 2020:

21 acres
of invasive tamarisk and
Russian olive were
removed

14 acres were revegetated with
400 native plants
and 1.4 pounds of pollinator seed mix

Over 90 acres
treated to date





BEFORE



AFTER

A key WRP goal is to restore and protect cottonwood gallery forests by removing invasive tamarisk and Russian olive trees. Successful restoration requires planning and working across jurisdictional boundaries as well as fundraising for all phases of restoration. Photo by Utah Conservation Corps.

FUNDRAISING

From 2017-2019, WRP partners

**RAISED OVER
\$400,000**

to support restoration
implementation and planning.

In 2020, WRP partners

RAISED \$219,191

for restoration efforts with an
additional **\$253,533**
in pending applications.

LOOKING INTO 2021

The WRP will:

- > Finalize the White River Restoration Action Plan
- > Formalize the White River Partnership with MOU signatures
- > Continue restoration implementation in Colorado and Utah
- > Coordinate monitoring to gauge restoration success and prioritize future action



FOR MORE INFORMATION

RiversEdge West coordinates the White River Partnership.
Visit riversedgewest.org/white-river-partnership or call 970-256-7400.





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