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.

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 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.

**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

*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, WRP partners for restoration efforts with an additional pending applications.

From 2017-2019, WRP partners to support restoration implementation and planning.

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**

**Before**

**After**

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.
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

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