

# Tamarisk Coalition Newsletter

## October 2006

The Tamarisk Coalition is aggressively directing its efforts to help you and your organization through education, technical assistance, and coordinating support for the restoration of riparian lands. We have finally added three staff members to better serve your needs – including this bi-monthly newsletter. Four very recent, critical areas we have been working on and a summary of major activities we have accomplished over the past two years are listed below. A lot has been accomplished since we started in 2002 and considerable momentum has been built to solve the tamarisk issue. The future looks very bright.

**Federal Legislation:** It is finally official – after 4 years of work by the House and Senate; the *Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act* was signed by the President on October 11, 2006 and is now law. It is referenced as Public Law 109-320 and can be viewed at the Library of Congress site <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Many, many people were involved to make this law a reality – special thanks to the two sponsors, Representative Steve Pearce and Senator Domenici. The principle components of the Act include:

- ✓ Authorization to fund \$80 million for large-scale demonstrations and associated research over a five year period;
- ✓ Assessment of the tamarisk and Russian olive problem during the first year;
- ✓ Assessment of bio-mass reduction and utilization;
- ✓ Demonstration projects for control and revegetation which will serve as research platforms to assess restoration effectiveness, water savings, wildfire potential, wildlife habitat, biomass removal, and economics of restoration;
- ✓ Project funding would be 75% federal and 25% local with up to \$7,000,000 per project for the federal share;
- ✓ Development of long-term management and funding strategies;
- ✓ Interior will be the lead and work with USDA through a memorandum of understanding to administer the Act.

The next step, for which we are providing technical support, is the inclusion of appropriations to fully fund the Act.

**California Legislation:** On September 29, 2006 Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law Assembly Bill 984 ( [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov) ) which directs California state agencies to work with other Colorado River basin states to develop a comprehensive plan for tamarisk control and revegetation for the entire Colorado River system. Once the plan is completed, California will implement it upon the appropriation of funds. This provides a major step towards cooperative conservation – states and federal agencies working together to approach the problem on a watershed scale.

**2006 Tamarisk Research Conference:** In Ft. Collins on October 3-4, 2006 over 250 scientists, land managers, policy-makers, and grad students participated in the first research conference dedicated to all aspects of the tamarisk issue. Over 80 papers and posters were presented. Abstracts and presentations will soon to be available on our website ( [www.tamariskcoalition.org](http://www.tamariskcoalition.org) ) and Center for Invasive Plant Management ( [www.weedcenter.org](http://www.weedcenter.org) ), and Colorado State University ( [www.tamarisk.colostate.edu](http://www.tamarisk.colostate.edu) ). This conference will be hosted every two years at a different university community.

**Website:** If you haven't noticed, our website is under construction. The Coalition's Board has directed that website development/enhancement is a high primary objective for 2007. We are building the site through the Natural Resources Ecology Laboratory at CSU to be a virtual library of tamarisk information and a communication network. We will be contacting you in the future to assess your needs and to request your opinions on inputs.

## Funding the Tamarisk Coalition

As with all non-profits, funding is an ongoing issue. The Tamarisk Coalition's work has mushroomed this year and we need **YOUR help** to continue our efforts. Within the past week you should have received a membership package – please send in your membership dues if you haven't already. Your continued support is essential for the **Tamarisk Coalition** *so we can help you with your tamarisk control efforts and the long-term reestablishment of native vegetation along the West's rivers and streams.*

Happy trails,

*Tim Carlson*

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### Major Accomplishments and Activities 2004-2006

#### General:

1. Increased contacts from 125 to 1,600.
2. Expanded representation from western CO & eastern UT to include all 17 western states, Tribal governments, 2 Canadian provinces, and Mexico.
3. Continued the goal of establishing the Tamarisk Coalition as the most credible organization addressing the tamarisk problem and its related impacts on riparian health.
4. Executive Director appointed to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee of the National Invasives Species Council.

#### Education:

1. Provided information to legislators and testified to U.S. Senate and House committees.
2. Hosted a very successful 3<sup>rd</sup> *Tamarisk Symposium* in October 2005.
3. Co-sponsored with the Secretaries of USDA and Interior the *Team Tamarisk* conference.
4. Organized and co-hosted the 2006 Tamarisk Research Conference in Ft. Collins.
5. Developed a bio-control brochure for general and landowner usage.

#### Technical Assistance:

1. Developed Colorado's 10-Year Strategic Plan for tamarisk control.
2. Facilitated the development and implementation of New Mexico's Strategic Plan and management structure for non-native phreatophyte control.
3. Provided technical assistance to Kansas for development of its 10-Year Strategic Plan.
4. Helped develop the protocol for bio-control release in Colorado and served as a mediator with the USF&WS & USDA.
5. Developed the protocol for and mapped tamarisk infestations for all of Colorado's rivers and major tributaries.
6. Provided technical assistance to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration effort for the 50 mile reach of the Colorado River in the Grand Junction area.
7. Helped develop a tamarisk economics study for the National Invasive Species Council.

8. Worked with Western Governors Association to develop rationale for using Farm Bill funding through under-utilized CRP practices (CP22, CP29, and CP-30).
9. Worked with the Colorado Department of Agriculture Palisade Insectary to help research the ongoing progress and success of bio-control release sites in 10 western states

**Coordinating Support:**

1. We are currently helping watershed initiatives to develop basin-wide tamarisk control and restoration plans for the Colorado, Gunnison, Dolores, San Juan & Arkansas Rivers in AZ, CO, NM, and UT.



a non-profit alliance  
working to restore riparian lands

Tamarisk Coalition

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