



# Tamarisk Coalition Newsletter

April 2008

## In This Issue

Website Improvements:  
What can we do for you?

Island Acres Volunteer  
Project

## Next Issue

As the Tamarisk Coalition is currently redirecting its focus for the future, the next newsletter will illuminate our first steps in that exciting new direction (whatever that may be).

## Contact Us

www.tamariskcoalition.org  
(970) 256-7400  
P.O. Box 1907  
Grand Junction, CO 81502

## How the Time Flies...

Now where did that month go? I could have sworn March was around here somewhere...hmm, very strange. I apologize for the late launch of this newsletter folks, but I seem to have lost a month somewhere. Amidst the begins of yet another stellar volunteer season, wrapping up some work for an Army Corps of Engineers' 206 project, compiling strategic plans for the Arkansas and Purgatory Rivers, working on the development of our upcoming "new and improved" website, gearing up for a very busy field season, and organizing and completing the Island Acres Volunteer Project, the past month just Marched right on by! Now it's April, and the Coalition is busy as always. We are waiting for several very important initiatives to be finalized before sharing some (fingers crossed!) extremely exciting news for the health of western rivers and the future of the Tamarisk Coalition.

In the absence of this information, our April newsletter will discuss the creation of our new website. We would also like to hear your thoughts and suggestions on this matter. How can our website better fulfill your tamarisk educational needs? We will also share with you the success story of the Island Acres Volunteer Project which was held the weekend of April 5<sup>th</sup>.

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## The Tamarisk Coalition's New Website: What are your tamarisk web surfing needs?

The Tamarisk Coalition has always recognized the importance and potential of an outstanding website to fulfill our mission of providing tamarisk and river health education to the masses. While our current site does provide some information about our organization and the tamarisk issues it addresses, we realize that it could be vastly improved, providing essential education to the public. Following is a very basic outline of the new website we are planning to build:

### HOME PAGE

- Mission Statement
- Major Accomplishments 2004- 2008
- Update on current Tamarisk Coalition projects

### ABOUT US

#### History

**Partnership** – Links & phone numbers for partners

#### Board

#### Staff

**In the News** – Newsletters & Links to newspaper/magazine articles

#### Accomplishments

## Meet the Staff

Tim working hard



John points out the San Juan watershed



Clark scouting tamarisk



Christy clicking away



Nate takes a break to smile for the camera



## JOIN US

### Contact Us

**Volunteer Info** – Current schedule & accomplishments

**Find Funding Opportunities** – Connect to funding summary paper

**Become a Coalition member** – Link to membership form

## THE TAMARISK ISSUE

**The Plant** – In-depth description of tamarisk

**Impacts** – Discussion of tamarisk impacts and their significance

**Control & Revegetation** – Discussion of all options

**Bio-control** – In-depth description of tamarisk beetle

**Cost Algorithms** – Explanation/Summary

## LEGISLATION

**Federal Legislation** – Description and updates

**State Legislation** – Break down by state, Description and updates

## TAMARISK COALITION PROJECTS

Description of all past, present, and pending Tamarisk Coalition projects.

## STATE PROJECTS

Description of on-going projects state by state.

## EDUCATION

**Symposiums** – Description and link to information.

**Research Conferences** – Description and link to information

**Brochures and Fact-Sheets** – Downloadable

**Upcoming Events**

## RESEARCH

**Current Research** – Informational blurbs describing current research and links to any available papers. Contact information to send us up to date research to be posted.

**Suggested Research** – List from the tamarisk research conferences. Contact information to send us suggestions to be posted.

## PHOTOS

The main improvements this site will hold over our current website will be a large increase in the volume of information provided and our ability to update it readily. We plan to “roll over” new information to the site once a month following its release date early in May. So please feel free to comment on our web content at any time.

PLEASE CONTACT US WITH SUGGESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED ON OUR WEBSITE SO THAT WE CAN BETTER PLAN OUR IMPROVEMENTS! (ctate@tamariskcoalition.org).

## Meet the Mascots

Chewbacca



Ghoti

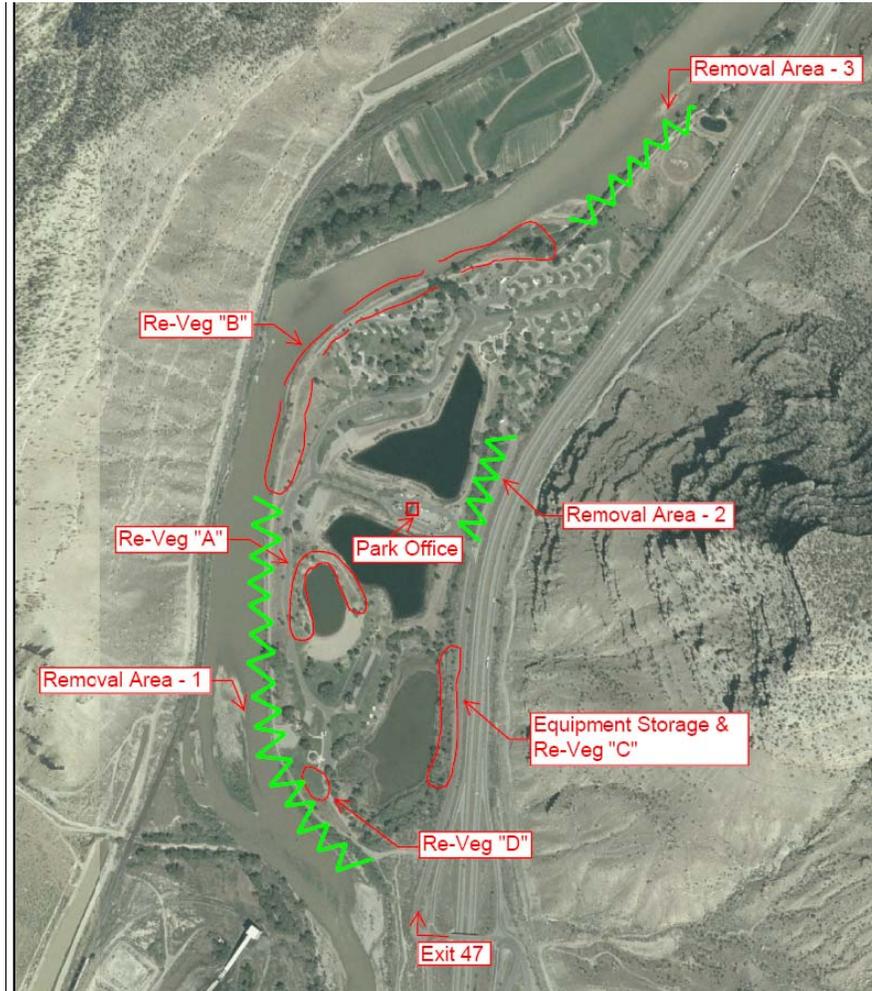


## Island Acres Volunteer Project

We would like to extend a heartfelt “THANK YOU!!” to all those that attended the Island Acres Volunteer Project! The event was an enormously successful, large-scale tamarisk removal and revegetation project that took place at the James M. Robb Colorado River State Park Island Acres Section April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. This project was a partnership designed to accomplish three tasks: (1) To engage local citizens to remove non-native invasive tamarisk and Russian olive from public lands and to carry out revegetation plans. (2) To protect and restore fragile riparian and canyon habitats infested with these non-native invasive phreatophytes, a source of non-beneficial water use in our arid environment. (3) To improve wildlife habitat. All three goals were achieved thanks to the amazingly hard working volunteers that completed much more than any of the organizing partners expected.

The wide open State Park site enabled us to involve over 100 volunteers on Saturday and Sunday. Volunteer teams rotated between two crew assignments: 1) Swamping Crews - drug tamarisk cut by professional sawyers to the nearest of three mechanical chippers, also operated by professionals; 2) Revegetation Crews - planted 550 bare root native trees and shrubs (Fremont cottonwood, 3-leave sumac, peach tree willow, golden currant, Wood’s rose) that benefit wildlife. Revegetation crews also built and installed protective wire cages around the newly planted cottonwood trees to protect the tender young plants from deer, beaver and porcupine.

**Figure 1: Island Acres Section of James M. Robb Colorado River State Park**



The project was a smashing success with Removal Areas 1 and 2 (shown above in Figure 1 in green) completely cleared and chipped. Huge quantities of tamarisk were felled by sawyers provided by the Western Colorado Conservation Corps and the Colorado State Park Service. Following this work, all traces of disturbance were mitigated to provide a pleasing experience for park visitors. Volunteers also revegetated the 4 areas designated above by red polygons with 550 bare root trees and shrubs.

Volunteers were provided with free camping, breakfast with coffee, tea, and hot chocolate, and tools. Saturday night there was a rocking bar-b-que with entertainment from the classic rock band Riveter.

To accomplish this incredible project the Tamarisk Coalition partnered with the following sponsors:

- James M. Robb Colorado River State Park
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
- Williams Energy, Brady Construction
- Western Colorado Conservation Corps of Partners
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Colorado River Water Conservancy District
- The town of Palisade
- Grand Junction Parks and Recreation

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## Funding the Tamarisk Coalition

**You're on our list for a good reason** – you understand that tamarisk, as an invasive non-native plant, is impacting the health of the West's river systems. And, remarkably – **You can help solve this problem.** To be part of the solution, become a member of the Tamarisk Coalition for as little as \$35 per year.

Due to the active involvement of our partnerships and membership contributions, the Tamarisk Coalition continues to grow in numbers and in influence. But, as a non-profit, the Tamarisk Coalition continuously strives to fund the restoration of western river ways. We now need your financial assistance to continue successfully providing educational opportunities, technical assistance, and coordinating support.

So, make the difference. Fill out the membership form available on our website ([www.tamariskcoalition.org](http://www.tamariskcoalition.org)) under the "Join Us" heading at the level that best fits your commitment. Your membership allows the **Tamarisk Coalition to facilitate tamarisk control efforts and to reestablish native vegetation along the West's rivers and streams.**

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Happy trails,

**Tim Carlson**

Tim Carlson, Executive Director  
Tamarisk Coalition  
P.O. Box 1907  
Grand Junction, CO 81502  
(970) 256-7400  
[tcarlson@tamariskcoalition.org](mailto:tcarlson@tamariskcoalition.org)

