



Photo courtesy of Jake Frank Photography

Advancing the restoration of riparian lands through collaboration, education, and technical assistance

2013 Annual Report

www.tamariskcoalition.org



Photo courtesy of Mike Wight





Letter from the Executive Director

I am fortunate to have been a part of the Tamarisk Coalition (TC) for over six years. Despite many changes during this time, one constant in that journey has been the commitment and passion of the community of staff, donors, restoration practitioners, and others that support us. It is the hard work and dedication of these individuals that enables us to advance our mission.

One of our core values, collaboration, was integral to our accomplishments this year. We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such accomplished and passionate partners.

Through personal and financial commitments, many people took the initiative to invest in the future of our riverside lands. Their donations and grants have been leveraged to support numerous programs, all of which helped land managers and practitioners create more resilient river systems.

I would like to thank all of you: partners, donors, staff, and board directors, for your hard work, partnership, and ongoing dedication to the restoration of riparian landscapes in the West. Keep up the good work! The following lists our goals and a summary of what we accomplished in 2013:

Enhance riparian stewardship. Through technical assistance and capacity support, we helped advance the goals of the Arkansas River Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership, Desert Rivers Collaborative, Dolores River Restoration Partnership, Escalante River Watershed Partnership, Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona, Middle Colorado Watershed Council, Northwest Colorado Riparian Partnership, Southeast Utah Riparian Partnership, and Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition.

Bridge knowledge. Provided education to a total of 674 people on riparian restoration training techniques, funding opportunities, and tamarisk beetle impacts. In addition, we participated in at least 16 education events and presentations which reached approximately 1,455 adults and youth.

Foster partnerships. Proudly participated in a new collaboration of Mesa County, Colorado nonprofits to pool our outreach resources for our second Colorado Gives Day.

Inform policy. Working with Great Outdoors Colorado, helped inform the creation of a new riparian restoration-specific funding source.

Adapt and integrate. Increased our membership and donation contributions by almost 4 times our 2012 level.

To get involved and learn more visit our website www.tamariskcoalition.org and like us on Facebook!

Thanks for your support,

Stacy Beagh
Executive Director

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Training Today's Riparian Restoration Professionals

146 people attended four field-based training events in Colorado watersheds - one in the Gunnison River Basin, two in the Colorado River Basin, and one in the Dolores River Basin. The workshops covered topics such as invasive and native plant identification, grazing management in riparian areas, weed management best practices, and improving the success of native plant revegetation through ground water well installation.

78 people participated in our Funding Opportunities Webinar Series – topics included funding opportunities for restoration in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and on private lands; sustainable funding mechanisms for restoration; and the Army Corps of Engineers Compensatory Mitigation Program for wetlands and streams. **Catch up on past webinars or find future events at <http://tamariskcoalition.org/programs/funding-webinar-series>**



"I will incorporate the concepts and techniques learned here for future watershed assessment and recommendations, use the tools for subsequent discussions with land owners, and will use this information to help make my presentation to local land trust"

"I want to incorporate these methods as I continue to monitor change with future (restoration) projects"

"I now plan to start a monitoring program for my weed management work"

"I will use these techniques moving forward in estimating species cover and percent cover (on my restoration sites)"

—Training Attendees

River Crossings, Linking River Communities: Research Conference & Workshop

Over 165 researchers, land managers, practitioners, and students attended the five day event, held March 11-15, 2013. TC partnered with The Water Center at Colorado Mesa University, River Management Society, Submerged Lands, and Bureau of Land Management to host the event, which showcased riparian restoration and river management information from across the western US, as well as Alaska and Maryland.

"Listening to others' experiences of restoration in their watersheds makes me feel like my project is part of a much bigger picture."

"The contacts made here will allow me to learn of new tools, methods, and opportunities for achieving/meeting my organizations' missions and goals."

"It was great to network with other agencies and organizations who were working on similar projects, problems, and issues. This allows 'us' to be more efficient at our efforts through sharing and learning from one another's experience and knowledge."

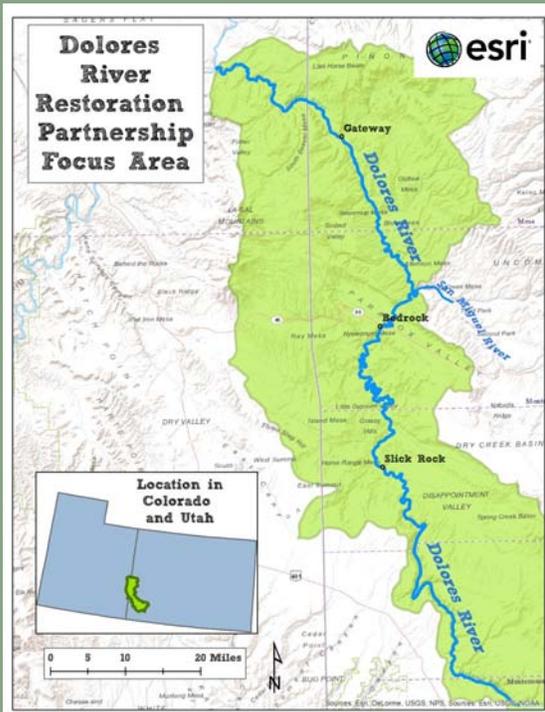


View presentations at

<http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/programs/training-conferences-0>

—Conference Attendees

Riparian restoration on...



...the Dolores River, CO & UT

We are lead partners on the Dolores River Restoration Partnership, which has been working to restore native plants and manage invasive species on 175 miles of the Dolores River in southeast Utah and western Colorado since 2009. Accomplishments in 2013 include:

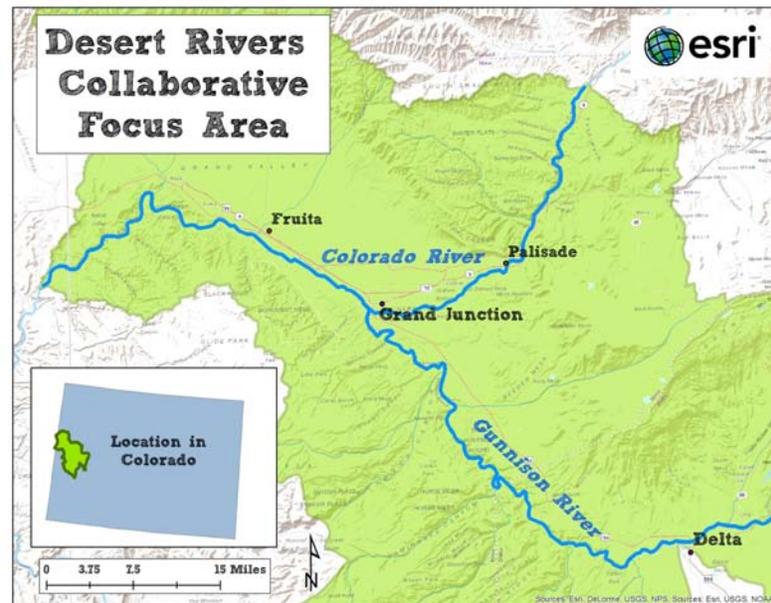
- 284.5 acres of tamarisk treated by conservation corps crews or contractors
- 76 acres of tamarisk re-sprouts treated by agency staff and interns
- 156 acres planted with native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees
- 394 acres of secondary weed treatment (e.g., Russian knapweed)
- 767 acres where desirable plants have been restored
- 59 jobs created for conservation corps and private contractors
- 460 volunteer hours of service
- \$993,575 invested into local economies through partnership expenditures

See the full report on the Dolores River activities and complete partner list at <http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/drrp/>

...the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers, CO

Working alongside 20 local partners, we have begun implementation of five demonstration projects along the Colorado and Gunnison River mainstems in western Colorado. 2013 accomplishments include:

- 1,300 native plants installed as part of a pollinator garden
- 40.5 acres of tamarisk and Russian olive treated at 3 sites
- \$500,000 invested into local economies
- Protected naturally recruited cottonwoods at a Grand Valley Audubon site
- Employed a college intern to conduct weed mapping
- Began monitoring the geomorphologic changes of the Colorado River mainstem as a result of these tamarisk and Russian olive removal projects



...the White River, CO

In partnership with the Bureau of Land Management White River Field Office, we coordinated the treatment of tamarisk, Russian olive and secondary weeds along 60 acres on the White River in northwest Colorado. Through this work we were able to employ private contractors and conservation corps crews.



Cross-Watershed Network

We proudly participated in the launch of the Cross-Watershed Network (XWN), the next wave of collaboration. The XWN is a peer-to-peer information exchange that is striving to help watershed practitioners learn, teach, and ultimately share their experiences with each other. This innovative approach to collaboration is helping participants maximize their resources and work more efficiently. The inaugural in-person workshop took place in 2013 in Cottonwood, AZ, where it was hosted by the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition. 63 people attended.



"The XWN is a great resource for finding out more about tools and techniques being applied throughout the arid west."

"I'm eager to see what happens next with the XWN – it has great potential!"

"I think that the XWN can help me by providing technical resources, people to talk to about common issues, people to have a beer with while we talk about common issues."

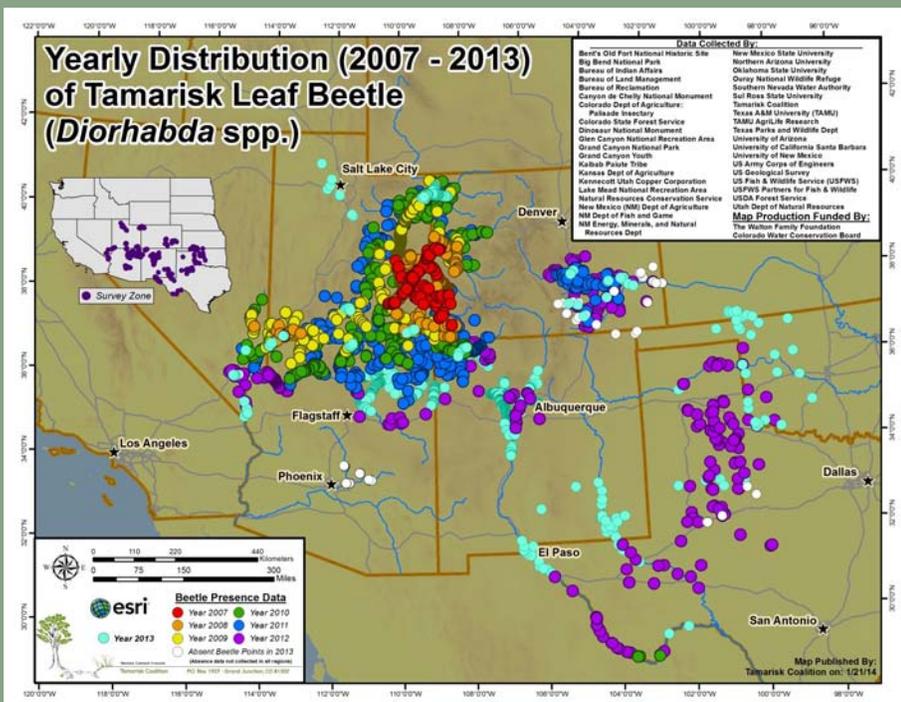
—Workshop Attendees

Get involved and learn more at www.crosswatershed.net

Tracking the Tamarisk Beetle

With documented population now ranging from Texas to California and up into Kansas, the tamarisk beetle (*Diorhabda* spp.) has quickly become a part of many riparian ecosystems in the West. TC coordinates with partners through the western states to track the expanse of the beetle population, provide education related to its impacts, and help people integrate the beetle into their riparian management plans. This year's accomplishments include:

- 39 contributing data partners in 9 states (contributing \$48,582 in in-kind match)
- New partners in Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas
- Provided beetle monitoring training and education to 450 people in 6 states



Find out more and track a beetle near you at <http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/programs/tamarisk-beetle>

Project Funders and Donors

Project Funders and Grantors

Gates Family Foundation
 Colorado State Forest Service
 Xcel Energy Foundation
 Walton Family Foundation
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Bureau of Land Management
 Colorado Water Conservation Board
 Colorado Parks and Wildlife
 Army Corps of Engineers – Albuquerque
 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
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2013 Conference Sponsors

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 Alaska Department of Natural Resources
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 ESRI (in-kind)
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 REI (in-kind)
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 Western Colorado Community Foundation

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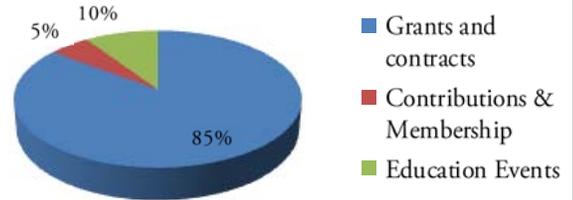
In-kind Contributors

REI
 Chelsea Nursery
 Talon Wines
 Laughing Dog Coffee House
 Diorio's
 Western Colorado Botanical Gardens
 Edgewater Brewery

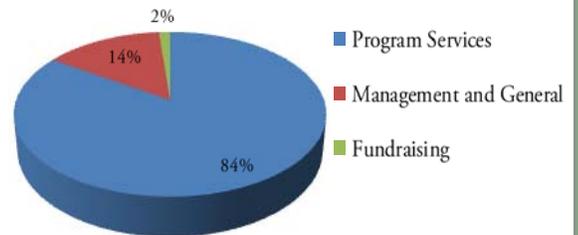
Special thanks to Kirsten M. Kurath
 and Williams, Turner & Holmes, P.C.

Financial Summary

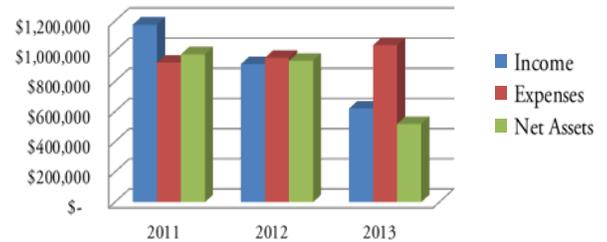
Income \$621,013



Expenses \$1,040,840



2011, 2012, & 2013 Budget Comparison



Note: A multi-year grant, in 2011 & 2012 carried over into 2013. Also, a multi-year pledge was booked in 2012 which skewed the 2013 income/expenses to show a discrepancy. TC maintained a healthy reserve at the end of 2013.

Annual report sponsored by:



Program Partners and Collaborators

1% for Open Space
1% for the Tetons
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Arizona Water Protection Fund
Arkansas River Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership
Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
Big Bend National Park
Bureau of Indian Affairs
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Bureau of Reclamation
Canyon de Chelly National Monument
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Dinosaur National Monument
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Four Corners School/Canyon Country Youth Corps
Friends of the Verde River Greenway
Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Grand Canyon Youth
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NM Department of Fish and Game
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Oklahoma State University
Ouray National Wildlife Refuge
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Submerged Lands
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Texas A&M University (TAMU)
TAMU AgriLife Research
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
The Nature Conservancy
The Wetlands Bankgroup
Town of Palisade, Colorado
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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University of California Santa Barbara
University of New Mexico
University of Utah – Rio Mesa Center
Utah Department of Agriculture
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Utah Department of Water Quality
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Utah Division of Forestry Fire & State Lands
Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition
Walton Family Foundation
Water Center at Colorado Mesa University
Western Colorado Conservation Corps
Western Colorado Landscape Collaborative
Western Colorado Wildlife Habitat Association
Western Water & Land Inc.
Xcel Energy Foundation

2013 Tamarisk Beetle Data Partners:

Andy Dean, USFWS - NM
Steve Harris, in NM
Jerry Michels, TX AgriLife
James Tracy, TAMU
Gary Schiffmiller, NM Forestry (EMNRD)
Joe Sirotnak, NPS
Danny Norlander, EMNRD
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TC Staff—August 2013

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___ Individual Member, \$50

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Name: _____

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Tamarisk Coalition is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit ID #: 27-0007315.



BENEFITS

▶ **INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS** receive discounted registration at our annual conference and other trainings and workshops, and are recognized in our annual report.

▶ **COTTONWOOD CLUB and RIVERSIDE CHAMPIONS** receive discounted registration to special TC events, workshops, and recognition on our website and in our annual report.

▶ **SUSTAINING MEMBERS** provide reliable support through monthly, automatic contributions. Benefits provided with membership are based on the total annual contribution.