

# TAMARISK COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY YEAR

## 2001 - 2012

### 2001 Accomplishments

Co-hosted first Tamarisk Symposium with Colorado State University Cooperative Extension

### 2002 Accomplishments

IRS non-profit 501 (c)(3) designation

Development of Business Plan

Hired first Executive Director

### 2003 Accomplishments

Underwent first annual audit

Participated in "Colorado Cares Day"

Executive Director nominated to serve on the Invasive Species Advisory Council

Co-hosted Tamarisk Symposium with Colorado State University Extension; Colorado Weed Management Association

### 2004 Accomplishments

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant for western Colorado and eastern Utah in 2003 and 2004

National Forest Foundation grant for TimberAx

Participated in *Team Tamarisk: Cooperating for Results* meeting in Albuquerque, NM

Hosted first Board retreat to complete strategic planning

### 2005 Accomplishments

Hired four interns

Increased contacts from 125 in 2002 to 1,600 in 2005

Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study in Grand Valley

Initiated First President's Award at biannual Tamarisk Symposium

Testimony to U.S. Senate and House

Testimony to Colorado Water Resources Committee

White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation

California Strategic Plan

Helped initiate, encourage, and assist Tackling Tamarisk on the Purgatoire (tributary of the Arkansas River) committee and Dolores River Tamarisk Action Group (upper Dolores River tamarisk control project above McPhee Reservoir)

Provided technical support to the state of New Mexico to develop strategic plans to control tamarisk in the state

Provided support for control and education of tamarisk in Western Colorado and Eastern Utah

### 2006 Accomplishments

Hired the first membership coordinator, full time program employees, and a volunteer coordinator  
First TC vacation, retirement, health plan was instituted in 2006 (minutes 10-5-2006)

Received NFWF grant for western Colorado & eastern Utah that was utilized to organize volunteers along Mill Creek and other areas near Moab

Began work with the Army Corps of Engineers for a 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project in Mesa County, CO

Helped develop a statewide strategic plan for tamarisk and Russian olive control and riparian restoration for New Mexico and Kansas

Developed economic impact estimates of tamarisk infestations within the Colorado and Rio Grande River watersheds for NISC

Helped develop and supported federal legislation PL 109-320; the Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Act, which was signed by President Bush on October 11, 2006

Developed a tamarisk mapping protocol in coordination with CSU

Helped to develop Assembly Bill 984 which was signed on Sept. 29, 2006 by California Governor Schwarzenegger which directs CA state agencies to work with other Colorado River Basin states to develop a comprehensive plan for tamarisk control and revegetation for the Colorado River system

Held second Board retreat to complete strategic planning efforts

Hosted Tamarisk Research Conference with Colorado State University Agricultural Experiment Station; Center for Invasive Plant Management

## 2007 Accomplishments

Began coordinating with the Colorado Department of Agriculture and University of California Santa Barbara to monitoring the population distribution of the tamarisk leaf beetle in Western Colorado and near Moab, Utah

Completed the Southeastern Utah Tamarisk Partnership (SEUTP) comprehensive plan for tamarisk and Russian olive control and riparian restoration

Piloted a study in northwest Colorado in partnership with Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and Dinosaur National Park to study the response of bird populations to the introduction of the tamarisk leaf beetle

Coordinated volunteer projects with the Bureau of Land Management in the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area to hand cut and spray tamarisk and Russian olive in over ten miles of canyons

Developed a management and budget structure for New Mexico Department of Agriculture program for non-native phreatophyte control and restoration

Provided technical assistance for the San Juan River watershed strategic plan in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah

Worked with Western Governors Association to develop rationale for using Farm Bill funding under-utilized Continuous CRP (CP 22, CP29, and CP 30) for woody invasive control and riparian restoration

Completed inventory a mapping of tamarisk infestations for all rivers and major tributaries in Colorado and eastern Utah

Completed the Colorado Headwaters Invasives Partnership (CHIP) comprehensive plan for tamarisk control and riparian restoration for the Colorado, Gunnison, Uncompahgre, and Dolores rivers

Began watershed planning support on the Arkansas and Purgatoire rivers in SE Colorado

Revised the website with assistance from Colorado State University Natural Resource Ecology Lab

Published educational brochure on tamarisk biological control

2007 Tamarisk Symposium hosted in collaboration with Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Colorado River Ecosystem Team, Colorado Weed Management Association

### 2008 Accomplishments

Began a national search for an Executive Director

Monitored an expanded area from 2007 of the tamarisk leaf beetle population extent in western Colorado and eastern Utah

Coordinated a public meeting in Grand Junction, CO to discuss and plan riparian habitat restoration on Watson Island, a riverfront property owned by the city that is utilized as a recreational and educational venue. Began utilizing volunteers in the same year.

Assisted the NRCS and the Upper Colorado River Environmental Plant Center by coordinating a volunteer planting event near Mack, CO along Salt Creek

Provided technical assistance in the development of a tamarisk and Russian olive strategy for the Missouri River watershed in Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming

Worked with the Colorado legislature to initiate \$1 million matching grant program for riparian restoration through the Colorado Water Conservation Board which was passed in May 2008

Completed the Arkansas River mapping and inventory

Completed the *Riparian Restoration Assessment of Alternative Technologies for Tamarisk Control, Biomass Reduction, and Revegetation*

Created a database of private and government grant opportunities for use in riparian restoration efforts

### 2009 Accomplishments

Developed and began coordinating implementation of the Dolores River Riparian Action Plan (DR-RAP) in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management, stakeholders involved in the Dolores River Restoration Partnership

Coordinated riparian restoration revegetation training in coordination with the Big Country RC & D and the Los Lunas, NM Plant Materials Center

Partnered with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and Western Colorado Conservation Corps to remove tamarisk and Russian olive and replant native species at the James M. Robb Colorado River State Park near Cameo, Colorado. The first phase of this project was completed in 2008.

Continued coordinating volunteers, youth corps, and others to remove tamarisk, Russian olive and secondary weeds at Watson Island.

Completed the *Colorado River Basin Tamarisk and Russian Olive Assessment* for the seven Colorado River basin states

Expanded the tamarisk leaf beetle monitoring program from the 2008 activities by adding Northern Arizona University, Grand Canyon National Park, Dinosaur National Monument, and others as collaborators. The area surveyed extended to northeast Utah, northwest Colorado, and into the four corners region.

Hosted 2009 Tamarisk and Russian Olive Research Conference in collaboration with Colorado State University Cooperative Extension

### 2010 Accomplishments

Conducted an equipment demonstration project in Mack, CO to showcase options for woody invasive removal and native plant revegetation efforts in partnership with National Wild Turkey Federation

Coordinated a riparian restoration planting training in Grand Junction, Colorado in coordination with NRCS Plant Materials Centers based in Meeker, Colorado and Los Lunas, New Mexico

Expanded the 2009 tamarisk leaf beetle monitoring program by collaborating with Bureau of Indian Affairs and USGS; surveying expanded to include the area in northwestern New Mexico

Coordinated, in partnership with the Walton Family Foundation and US Fish and Wildlife Service, a meeting to determine an initial design and prioritization approach to improving southwestern willow flycatcher habitat in response to the tamarisk leaf beetle establishment

Completed a needs assessment to determine what gaps existed, if any, of the availability of appropriate native plants for riparian restoration efforts. Worked with local plant producers to determine mechanisms for filling these identified gaps.

Surveyed over twenty-five organizations to conduct an assessment of training opportunities in the Colorado River basin which included findings on training needs and recommendations

Provided technical support to land managers that received grant assistance through the Colorado Water Conservation Board \$1 million grant program

Hosted 2010 Tamarisk Symposium in collaboration with Colorado State University Cooperative Extension

## 2011 Accomplishments

Conducted a native riparian shrub and grass seed collection training in Grand Junction, Colorado in partnership with the Upper Colorado River Environmental Plant Center

Coordinated the Colorado National Guard, youth corps, and private contractors to remove tamarisk and other invasive species, and plant native vegetation at Watson Island in Grand Junction, Colorado

Partnered with the John McConnell Western Colorado Match and Science Center to provide education to youth in Mesa County at Watson Island.

Hosted a Russian knapweed control pilot project and field tour in coordination with Colorado State University and the Bureau of Land Management on the Dolores River near Gateway, Colorado

Coordinated volunteer planting events on the Dolores River near the Colorado/Utah state line in cooperation with the DRRP, BLM, and Rim to Rim Restoration

Completed the *Northwest Colorado Watershed Partnership Action Plan* and assisted in efforts to begin partnership formation and implementation of demonstration projects on the White, Yampa and Green Rivers

Began grow-out and installation of a cottonwood plantation to provide ecotype specific plant materials for river habitat restoration projects in western Colorado and eastern Utah.

Coordinated riparian restoration trainings in Moab and Escalante, Utah in coordination with the Los Lunas NRCS Plant Materials Center

Completed the *Sustainable Funding Options for a Comprehensive Riparian Restoration Initiative in the Colorado River Basin* which reviewed ten large-scale restoration case studies to document potential sustainable funding mechanisms that can be applied to restoration efforts in the West

The 2010 tamarisk leaf beetle monitoring expanded into central Arizona and eastern Colorado and partnership was formed with University of Arizona in addition to previous year collaborators

Engaged with partners and experts in the Virgin River watershed to assist local land managers with collaborative efforts to improve habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher in areas impacted by

tamarisk leaf beetle defoliation

Provided technical and capacity support to habitat restoration efforts on the Escalante and Verde Rivers in Utah and Arizona

Completed habitat restoration plans for a 30-mile stretch of the Colorado River in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers

Through outside grant funding, TC has helped, over the last several years, to provide start-up monies for the production of restoration materials. Funds from the sale of these products will return to producers to encourage sustainable plant production over time.

Hosted 2011 Tamarisk Research Conference in collaboration with United States Geological Survey; Colorado State University Cooperative Extension