

Desert Rivers Collaborative December 2022 Meeting
December 5, 2022 1:00-2:30
Timberline Bank, Grand Junction, CO

Next steps:

- REW to outline a treatment guide for herbicide selection, treatment methods, and revegetation; distribute to interested partners for feedback
- Follow up on tracking/coordinating projects in Grand Valley area.
- Gage interest/ability to submit letter to Mesa County regarding Ravenna Grass

Objectives:

- Roundtable discussion on best practices and resources related to tamarisk and Russian olive control in the DRC region
 - Gage interest in developing an outline/draft for a reference document based on the discussion
- Discuss upcoming projects and labor availability
- Identify how to best coordinate riparian restoration efforts moving forward

1:00 Introductions

In attendance:

Pete Firmin, Derek Lovoi (Colorado Parks and Wildlife); Ellis Thompson Ellis (City of Grand Junction/Two Rivers Wildfire Coalition); Kamie Long (Colorado State Forest Service); Kyle Goddard (Strike Team/Western Colorado Conservation Corps); Ross Mittelman, Duncan Dearduff (Mesa County); Kyle Alstatt, Matt Lambky (Bureau of Reclamation); Jeff Roberts (Western Colorado Conservation Corps); Rob Davis (City of Grand Junction); Troy Ward (Town of Palisade); Ty Jones, Guy Walker (Clifton Water District); Marlin Deras (Bureau of Land Management)

RiversEdge West Staff: John Leary, Shannon Wadas, Christine Prins, Montana Cohn, Joe Leonhard

1:15 Desert Rivers Collaborative MOU Update

- Still waiting on comments and feedback from some partners, please keep on your radar for broader comments and signatures in the near future.
- Next year we will update the Restoration Plan for the DRC

1:20 Roundtable discussion on riparian restoration project updates, BMPs, and resources in the Grand Valley

- CO River Watershed Restoration 6.0- should we try and put together a document similar to this?
 - Resource for new sites

- Documentation of what has been done
- Helpful for grant applications
- Could be shared broadly
- Partners in attendance are supportive

BMPs:

Tamarisk and RO

Plucking:

BOR:

- Plucking method with the amount of land, limited staff and financial limitations works best
 - Challenges: Some roots left behind, creates a lot of biomass
 - Can cover a lot of ground
 - Not applying herbicide
 - 12-13000 pound excavator
 - Usually conduct work in the winter
 - Would have some damage to nearby cottonwood trees if close
 - Not conducting along river banks due to erosion
 - Average ability in terms of running machinery
 - Minimal secondary weeds
- DRRP Strike Team Crew Leader: When this was done on the Dolores the soil disturbance actually helped with reseeding, sprayed the knapweed, most of the seeded plants did not do well
 - Tried seeding before excavating but limited in terms of putting down seed manually
 - Masticating leaves too much biomass on the ground and it is difficult to manage if grazing will occur due to sharp ends
- CPW: Was seeing a lot of suckers with plucking
 - Utilized a 50/50 mix, painting so didn't run into max load per acre

State Forest Service

- Utilizes smaller mulching heads for smaller trees but will not have cattle in the area (utilizing this method at Vega)

BLM:

- Root plow- could this be utilized in smaller stands of TRO?
- High ground disturbance

Cut stump treatments:

CPW:

- East of Las Colonias, not seeing any regrowth at this point
- Biggest challenge is how much herbicide is being utilized
- Same herbicide plan in August as in February

- Slash serves a purpose with birding but doesn't mitigate fuels mitigation concerns
- Can't burn anything so look to chips
- Make sure to spray right after cutting (current literature says 5 minutes)
- Don't spray when its too hot or too cold, refer to labels and spray first thing in the morning
 - Garlon 4 with crop oil doesn't freeze, 75% crop oil/25% herbicide (cant use in summer- anything over 75 or 80 degrees)
- High stumping is an option, then coming back later and spraying when the temps warm or get cooler (logistically challenging)

Mesa County:

- Timing is based on schedule- usually in the fall, Garlon does better

Strike Team:

- Garlon 3 does not do well on tamarisk
- Glyphosate works well on Elms
- Pathfinder- works well but is expensive
- Habitat works well for aquatic situations (10-12% mix with oils), spring and fall
 - Fall slightly better than spring
- Habitat \$14.50/gal, Garlon 3 \$92/gal, alternatively go with Garlon 4 with crop oil
 - Knock off herbicide brands work about the same
 - Utilizing more so on Russian olive than tamarisk
 - Polaris is another brand that suggests using antifreeze in cold temps

Frill Cut:

Strike Team:

- Not utilizing
- When Russian olive dies the thorns become worse
- Alternative if there are safety and training issues/concerns

REW:

- Utilized on the White, success was high but not a publicly accessible place
- Special niche depending on the area, has habitat benefits

Palisade:

- Have done this minimally only because of the size of the tree and safety issues and or keeping bank integrity

****Need to include when this would be appropriate**

Mastication:

CPW:

- Looks great at first, have fires show back up and keeps fire under control, the regrowth is the biggest challenge
- Fast and effective but longer rehab
- Go back a year later with a spray crew, had to go back three times to spray before gained control

State Forest Service:

- At Vega had a crew come behind and spray, still didn't cover everything, but better than not spraying at all

Strike Team:

- Saw the most resprouts in areas with mastication, still have resprouts from 2010

****Treatment costs – how effective in the long term**

Foliar Applications/Basal bark:

- Garlon 4 on young stuff works
- What is your end goal?
- CPW utilized along river banks, tamarisk didn't come back but just have dead stands now

Goats:

GJ: They liked tamarisk, don't like 4-wing saltbush or anything greater than 4 inches

Secondary Weeds of Interest:

- White top
- Pepperweed
- Knapweed
- Consider cheat grass/kochia

Data Collection/Mapping:

REW:

- Rapid monitoring protocols for the DRC, can cover a lot of area

Reveg:

- Include in document
- Possible funding opportunities (NRCS, CPW HPP, CPW Wetlands, Partners for Fish and Wildlife)
- Plant stock: Chelsea Nursery, Stan Young (contractor)
- Seed: Granite Seed, Southwest Seed, Wildland Scapes in Moab
- State Forest Service: in a rebuilding phase with the nursery, hoping to be operations next year perhaps?
- GJ: having a hard time finding bare root cottonwoods **(need to connect with Kamie on contact)**

Other considerations:

- Best practices along banks and slopes- removal and reveg
- How much to take on based on practicality and resources
- Site selection and likelihood for success
- Scientific data on prescription themselves
- Impact on biocontrol
- Ravenna grass

2:00 DRC Strike Team and Monitoring Interns

- John to share info on how to send data in
- Baseline data- if there are any sites that have a high probability of being worked on

2:15 Other Updates and Next Steps

- Mesa County noxious weed plan is up for review,
- John to send CDA link

2:30 Adjourn