



Tamarisk Coalition's 13th Annual
Research and Management Conference



THE ROAD TO RIPARIAN RESTORATION

Innovations for Working on Public, Private, and Tribal Lands in the Arid West

AGENDA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016				
5:30 PM-7:30 PM	Optional Social Hour and Pre-Conference Check-In, Lobby of SpringHill Suites		Check-in, pick up conference materials, and make some new connections! A note to our presenters: We will have computers available so you can upload your presentation with us ahead of time.	
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016				
7:45-8:30 AM	Need a ride?		Carpools can be arranged from the lobby of SpringHill suites to the Conference. If you need transportation, please call Cara at 630-935-2272.	
8:00-9:00 AM	Registration and Light Breakfast - Atrium			
Time	Speaker	Presentation Title		
Plenary Session				
Welcome - SOUTH BALLROOM				
9:00-9:15	Stacy Beaugh, Tamarisk Coalition	Opening Remarks		
9:15-9:40	Greg Shoop	Bureau of Land Management Colorado's Associate State Director		
Flooding and River Flows - SOUTH BALLROOM				
9:40-10:05	Chris Sturm, Colorado Water Conservation Board	Flood Recovery Update from the Colorado Water Conservation Board		
10:05-10:30	Patrick Shafroth, U.S. Geological Survey	Effects of Biological Control and Natural Flood Disturbance on Riparian Vegetation Dynamics Along the Virgin River		
10:30-10:55	Karen J. Schlatter, Sonoran Institute	Update on The Vegetation Response to Environmental Flows and Restoration Treatments in the Colorado River Delta		
10:55-11:20	BREAK - 25 minutes			
Concurrent Session				
Colorado Invasives - EAST BALLROOM			Community Impact and Resources - WEST BALLROOM	
11:20-11:45	Steve Ryder, Colorado Department of Agriculture	New Challenges of Noxious Weed Management in the Western U.S.	Anna Schrenk, Friends of Verde River Greenway	Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition: Collaborative Partnership Building and Applied Riparian Restoration
11:45-12:10	Laurie Mingen, Colorado Weed Management Association	Updates from the Colorado Weed Management Association	Michael Wight, Conservation Legacy	Large Scale Restoration in the Colorado River Basin- Quantifying Social and Ecological Impacts
12:10-12:35	Jeff Thompson, Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Colorado Parks and Wildlife - Current Issues in Land and Wildlife Management and Invasive Species Management Projects	Natalie Pyrooz, Southwest Conservation Corps	Invasive Species Mapping on Tribal Lands: Engaging Native Young Adults in a Collaborative Pilot Program

12:35-1:35	LUNCH BREAK - 1 HOUR - SOUTH BALLROOM		
Concurrent Session			
Plant Communities and Water Use - EAST BALLROOM			XWN Case Clinics - WEST BALLROOM
1:35-2:00	Thomas Whitham, Northern Arizona University	The Reality of Climate Change and the Need for Genetics Approaches in Riparian Restoration	<p align="center">Collaborative Problem-Solving to Address Real-Life Management Challenges</p> <p>During this hands-on session, practitioners will break out into groups to conduct informal, collaborative problem-solving around key topics of interest to participants. Pre-selected cases will be presented in 3-minute briefs over-viewing some of the challenges practitioners face in their watersheds. Participants will then choose a case that interests them to collaboratively build solutions. This session is hosted by the Cross-Watershed Network (XWN), a peer-to-peer information sharing network in the arid West.</p>
2:00-2:25	Randy Mandel, Golder Associates	The Use of Site-Specific Native Plant Species in Restoration Design to Benefit Pollinator Habitat	
2:25-2:50	Christine Rohal, Utah State University	Is your <i>Phragmites</i> Native or Exotic? Methods for Identification and Tools for Management	
2:50-3:15	Alyson McDonald, Texas A&M	<i>Tamarix</i> Transpiration Along a Semiarid River Has Negligible Impacts on Water Resources	
3:15-3:40	BREAK - 25 minutes - 1st President Award Nominations are Due		
Concurrent Session			
Biological Control - SOUTH BALLROOM			How to Involve Businesses in Riparian Restoration - EAST BALLROOM
3:40-4:05	Dan Bean, Colorado Department of Agriculture	Russian Olive Biocontrol: Just How Far Back is the Back Burner?	<p>Join us for a Panel Discussion: How to Involve Businesses in Riparian Restoration</p> <p>Moderated by Stacy Beough, Executive Director, Tamarisk Coalition. Panelists such as Kristi Pollard from the Grand Junction Economic Partnership, Kelly Flenniken from Xcel Energy, and David Miller from Alpine Bank will overview their respective businesses' roles in the community and in environmental initiatives before opening it up for an audience-wide discussion. Topics to be covered may include ideas for how organizations/communities can better attract private businesses to their cause, additional opportunities for businesses to be engaged in river restoration efforts that would benefit both the business and the restoration effort, how organizations can better communicate how the work that they do will benefit the private industry, etc.</p>
4:05-4:30	Jaimie Michelle Lawhorn, Sul Ross State University	Insect Diversities in Areas Impacted by the Biological Control of Saltcedar (<i>Tamarix</i> spp.) in West Texas	
4:30-4:55	Zeynep Ozsoy, Colorado Mesa University	<i>Coniatus</i> Updates on the Identification of the Origins of <i>Coniatus</i> spp., a Non- Native Weevil in Western North America	
4:55-5:00	CLOSING REMARKS		
5:15-7:15	<p align="center">POSTER SESSION & HAPPY HOUR - LOUNGE</p> <p>Join us for hors d'oeuvres and drinks at the informal Poster Session and Happy Hour! Socialize and talk with poster presenters and vendors, catch up with familiar faces, and network with new ones. Each attendee receives one complimentary beer (compliments of Palisade Brewing Company) or glass of wine (courtesy of Talon Wine Brands). Cash bar available. Please refer to page 39 for poster presentation abstracts.</p>		



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AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016				
7:30-8:30	Registration & Light Breakfast - Atrium			
Time	Speaker	Presentation Title		
Plenary Session				
8:30-8:35	Welcome and Opening Remarks - SOUTH BALLROOM			
Regional Impacts and Opportunities for Riparian Restoration - SOUTH BALLROOM				
8:35-9:10	Tom Melton, Encourage Capital	Investing for Impact in the Colorado River Basin		
9:10-9:45	Ben Bloodworth, Tamarisk Coalition	2015 Tamarisk Beetle Distribution in North America and the Tamarisk Beetle Expert Panel Report		
9:45-10:15	Peter Skidmore, The Walton Family Foundation	Insights into Riparian Restoration in the Colorado River Basin		
10:15-10:40	BREAK - 25 minutes			
Concurrent Session				
Monitoring and Technology - EAST BALLROOM			Restoration Tools and Planning - WEST BALLROOM	
10:40-11:05	Gigi Richard, Colorado Mesa University	Assessment of Geomorphic Impacts of Riparian Vegetation Removal on the Colorado River	Meg White, The Nature Conservancy	Science-Based Riparian Restoration Planning on the Colorado and Dolores Rivers: Investigating Habitat Complexity at Tributary Junctions
11:05-11:30	Tim Graham, Grand County Weed Department	Monitoring of Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Beetle Abundance and Tamarisk Defoliation in Grand County, Utah, 2004-2015	Matt Grabau, Sonoran Institute	Modeling Shallow Groundwater for Support of Riparian Areas in the Colorado River Delta
11:30-11:55	Rachel Frost, Missouri River Conservation Districts Council	Watershed-Based Geodatabase for Saltcedar Management and Monitoring	Zoey Diggory, Stillwater Sciences	Developing a Multi-Benefit Floodplain Vegetation Management Plan for the El Rio Reach of the Gila River, Maricopa County, AZ
11:55-12:20	Wenjie Ji, The State University of New York at Buffalo	Phenology-Guided Saltcedar (<i>Tamarix</i> spp.) Mapping Using Landsat TM Images in Western U.S.	Glen Leverich, Stillwater Sciences	Hydrologic Assessment Tools for River Restoration Applications

12:20-1:20	LUNCH BREAK - SOUTH BALLROOM - 1st President's Award			
Concurrent Session				
Applied Restoration - EAST BALLROOM			Tamarisk Beetle - WEST BALLROOM	
1:20-1:45	Cynthia Dott, Fort Lewis College	A Dam Sandwich and a Changing Side Salad: Sediment and Vegetation Change on the Lower San Juan River, Southeast Utah	Deborah Kennard, Colorado Mesa University	Tamarisk Mortality and Vegetation Change Following Release of the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle (<i>Diorhabda carinulata</i>) in Western Colorado
1:45-2:10	Brian Laub, Utah State University	An Experimental Habitat Enhancement Effort for Desert Rivers: San Rafael River Restoration Project	Matthew Johnson, Colorado Plateau Research Station/Northern Arizona University and Heather Bateman, Arizona State University	Investigating the Effects of Biocontrol of an Invasive Species on Riparian Avian and Herpetofauna Communities
2:10-2:35	Ken Lair, Lair Restoration Consulting	Development of Desert Panicgrass (<i>Panicum urvilleanum</i> Kunth) for Use in Southwestern Desert River Channel and Riparian Restoration	Anna Sher, University of Denver	Spatial Patterns of Beetle-Induced Defoliation of Invasive Tamarisk at the Landscape Level
2:35-3:00	Mark Taber, Bureau of Land Management	Lessons Learned in Riparian Restoration (and Some Tools to Make Life Easier)	Amanda Stahlke, University of Idaho, and Ellyn Bitume, Colorado State University	Using Genomics to Understand Hybridization and Selection in Biocontrol: the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle as Case Study
3:00-3:25	BREAK - 25 minutes			
Plenary Session				
Recovery and Resilience - SOUTH BALLROOM				
3:25-3:50	Anna Sher, University of Denver	Weed Control and Native Plant Community Recovery after <i>Tamarix</i> Removal by Three Methods Over Five Years; Findings of Monitoring 40 Sites of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership		
3:50-4:15	Shawn Stone, Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona	Re-establishing Native Habitat on the Upper Gila River of Arizona for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher & Yellow Billed Cuckoo		
4:15-4:40	Amanda T. Stahl, Washington State University	Riparian Corridor Selection for Connectivity and Ecological Resilience		
4:40-5:05	Carianne Campbell, Sky Island Alliance	Increasing Ecosystem Resilience to Climate Change One Rock at a Time		
5:05-5:10	CLOSING REMARKS			
6:30-8:00	SOCIAL HOUR AT BARONS BAR & GRILL 539 Colorado Ave Located in Downtown Grand Junction, stretch your legs and take the short walk to Barons. You are on your own for meals and drinks, but they have gourmet sandwiches, local beers, plus, billiards and a shuffle board.			

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2016

Time	Speaker	Activity and Cost	Description
Tour will begin at 9 am and end around 10:30 am	Dan Bean, Insectary Manager for the Colorado Department of Agriculture	Colorado Department of Agriculture, Palisade Insectary Cost: Free Transportation and snacks are not provided	<p>You've heard about the tamarisk beetle and other insects wandering around in the riparian corridors of the West, but have you seen them up close? Have you admired the backside of a <i>Coniatus splendidulus</i> lately?? This will be a short indoor walking tour of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Palisade Insectary. The Insectary has long been a promoter of the use of biological control in weed and insect pest management and is home to about 20 different species of biological control agents. Join us for a closer look at these insects and the unique rearing processes, as well general information on past and future efforts by the CDA's Biological Pest Control Program.</p> <p>* Please Note: Those interested in this trip are responsible for their own transportation; we are happy to help you arrange a carpool with other attendees if requested.</p> <p>Participants are advised to leave Grand Junction at 8:30 am to allow for driving time. The Palisade Insectary tour will begin at 9am. Directions will be provided at the Registration Table.</p>
8:15 am-12:30 pm	Danielle Bilyeu Johnston, and Derek Lovoi, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Russ Knight, National Resources Conservation Service, Barb Osmundson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area and Walter Walker State Wildlife Area Cost: \$15 Transportation and light snacks will be provided Transportation will depart from the Lobby of SpringHill Suites at 8:15.	<p>Site Visit to The Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area: This site had approximately 7 acres of degraded rangelands and underwent two combined treatments: a pothole treatment to roughen the surface and an application of super absorbent polymers to help retain soil moisture. The areas were degraded from overgrazing and were also heavily invaded by cheatgrass. The treated areas were then seeded with a mix of native forb, shrub, and grass species. Come see how effective the treatments have been and how the native plant community is developing.</p> <p>Site Visit to Walter Walker Wildlife Area: At this stop we will learn about large-scale restoration efforts currently underway at Walter Walker State Wildlife Area, a Colorado Parks & Wildlife property located along the Colorado River. This 450 acre site provides the largest protected resting area for wintering waterfowl in the Grand Valley and a number of other species, including Colorado River endangered fish species, find refuge at this site as well.</p> <p>In 2014 tamarisk, Russian olive, and secondary weeds were treated on the majority of the site. Revegetation of the site with cottonwoods and willows is currently underway, with passive restoration of the site by shrubs, grasses, and forbs anticipated.</p> <p>Project managers from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, CPW, and US Fish & Wildlife Service will provide an overview of the site and discuss how current restoration plans will help CPW better achieve its goal of providing superior wildlife habitat.</p>
8:00 am-12:00 pm	Pete Firmin, Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Connected Lakes Tour Cost: \$15 Transportation and light snacks will be provided Transportation will depart from the Lobby of SpringHill Suites.	<p>Entering its third year of active tamarisk and Russian olive removal and revegetation, the goal of the Connected Lakes Restoration project is to restore, through a phased approach, 48 acres of wetland, riparian, and upland habitat at the Connected Lakes Section of the James M. Robb – Colorado River State Park. A former gravel pit, this Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) site is located minutes away from downtown Grand Junction and is a popular recreation site, with heavy usage by fishermen, bicyclists, hikers, and birders. Connected Lakes is bordered by the Colorado River and the Redlands Canal.</p> <p>Beginning in 2013, 24 acres of tamarisk and Russian olive were removed from this site, with secondary weed treatment of knapweed, whitetop, and other state listed species on-going. Active revegetation is being accomplished through the planting, mainly by volunteers, of locally sourced cottonwood trees, shrubs, and grass and forb seeding. Planning is currently underway for treatment of an additional 24 acres.</p> <p>During the tour, Park Manager Pete Firmin will discuss removal and restoration techniques, challenges and lessons learned over the last three years.</p>

POSTER PRESENTERS

Join us for the Poster Session at 5:15 on February 9th! Socialize and talk with poster presenters and vendors, catch up with familiar faces, and network with new ones.

Anna V. Schrenk, Jamie Nielsen, and Calvin Rogers, Friends of Verde River Greenway and Tamarisk Coalition	VWRC: A Collaborative Watershed Approach to Improving Riparian Areas in the Verde Watershed
Ben Bloodworth, Tamarisk Coalition	2007-2015 Distribution of Tamarisk Beetle (<i>Diorhabda</i> spp.)
Carianne Campbell, Sky Island Alliance	Removing Invasive Periwinkle (<i>Vinca major</i>) to Restore Wildlife and Pollinator Resources in Aravaipa Canyon
Cinzia Ballantyne, Simmons College	Differential Decomposition Of <i>Acer platanoides</i> And <i>A. saccharum</i> : Effects On Decomposition Rate And Macroinvertebrate Community Composition
Hannah Riedl, Colorado State University	Food Web Functionality in Novel Ecosystems: Influence of an Introduced Shrub on Reciprocal Insect Subsidies
James L. Tracy, Texas A&M University	Use of a Novel Envelope Score Fuzzy Parallelepiped Classifier in Distinguishing Riparian Tamarisk/Willow and Mesquite Habitats for Endangered Bird Species with High Resolution Multispectral Imagery
Jason Beason, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies	Does Russian Olive Provide Important Habitat for Western Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Other Riparian Birds?
Jocosa Yasenchack, Fort Lewis College	Three Pronged Analysis of Water Stressed <i>Populus angustifolia</i> Riparian Forest, Dolores River, Southwestern Colorado
Kelly Jensen and Maddalena Blondell, Colorado Mountain College	It's Snot A New Problem: <i>Didymosphenia geminata</i> , An Algae In Colorado That Won't Be Slipping Away Anytime Soon
Magda Garbowski, Colorado State University	Effects of Superabsorbent Polymers on Native Plant and Cheatgrass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>) Establishment Under Drought Conditions
Martin Moses, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies	Benches and Brush: Stream Restoration Techniques in Southwestern Colorado
Matthew R. Grabau, Sonoran Institute	Effects of the Minute 319 Ecological Flows on Soil Salinity in the Colorado River Delta
Jaimie Michelle Lawhorn, Sul Ross State University	Insect Diversities in Areas Impacted By The Biological Control Of Saltcedar (<i>Tamarix</i> spp.) In West Texas
Sierra Veenis, Fort Lewis College	Impact of a Diversion Structure on Composition and Abundance of Aquatic Macro-Invertebrate Communities in two Rocky Mountain Headwater Streams
Somer Morris, Fort Lewis College	Shifts in the Structure and Composition of Riparian Vegetation in Response to Sediment Aggradation on the San Juan River
Susan Longest, Colorado Mesa University	Avian Colonization of a Riparian Area