
Dolores River Restoration Partnership Transition Plan 2015 - 2019

~Protecting our Shared Investments in Riparian Restoration through
Monitoring and Maintenance~

Last Updated on May 23, 2014



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~Photos courtesy of The Nature Conservancy and Tamarisk Coalition

Background and Plan Overview

The Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) is a public-private collaborative of partnering individuals, organizations, and agencies working to restore the plant communities in the riparian corridor of the Dolores River, which flows from the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado to eastern Utah, where it meets the Colorado River. Since 2009, the DRRP has worked to remove invasive plants whose extensive growth has displaced native plant communities, impaired wildlife habitat and forage, hindered access to campsites and other recreational opportunities, and increased risks associated with wildfire in the riparian corridor.



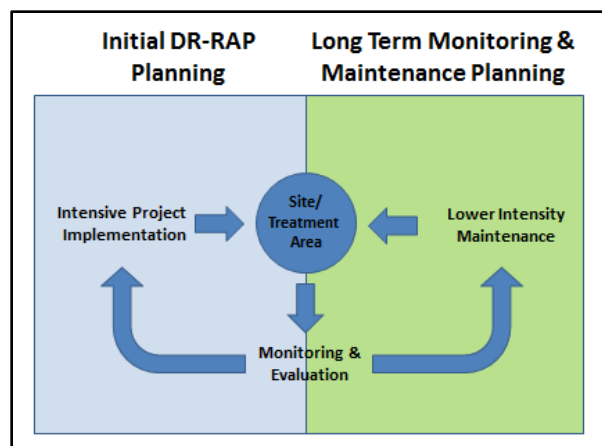
This broad community of partners, working along nearly 200 miles of the Dolores River, has been guided to date by the Dolores River-Riparian Action Plan (DR-RAP). Developed by stakeholders in 2010, DR-RAP provides a shared vision and set of goals that have guided the DRRP through its formative years of

restoring the riparian corridor of the Dolores River. In addition to helping inform on-the-ground decisions, this five-year strategic plan has also guided broader decisions towards the partnership's ecological, social, economic, and management goals.

While DR-RAP has been instrumental to these dynamic years characterized by highly intensive, active implementation work, it does not articulate how to plan beyond this initial five-year phase of the partnership. A collaborative solution for the next stages of the partnership was initiated in 2012, to address the long-term monitoring and maintenance strategies for the DRRP.

Fundamentally, this transition plan answers the following questions:

- How do we protect our investment of dollars, social capital, time, and capacity in the Dolores River watershed?
- When does the DRRP cease to exist and/or transition its management of a project to another entity for continued monitoring and maintenance (M&M)?
- What does this transition to M&M look like?
- How can the partnership be successful in achieving its long-term vision?



Updated Partnership Goals

Goals:

The partnership goals listed below (updated from DR-RAP; see Appendix A for background), provide important guidance to the partnership as we complete the heavy lifting of intensive DR-RAP implementation work and transition into long-term M&M.

Ecological Goals: enhanced plant communities

- Increase the number of acres of sustainable, healthy riparian and floodplain plant communities in the watershed while reducing those dominated by tamarisk and other invasive, non-native plant species.
- Live tamarisk will be reduced to less than 5 percent of the vegetation cover while other invasive, non-native plants will be reduced to less than 15 percent of the vegetation cover within the riparian corridor; the remaining percent vegetation cover will be composed of desirable or native species.
- Total vegetation cover within the riparian corridor will be greater than or equal to 30 percent (if less than 30 percent, ensure that vegetation has been deemed to be adequate for the site).

Social Goals: youth, public safety, and aesthetics

- Increase opportunities for the next generation of stewards with regional conservation and youth corps programs that support underserved young adults.
- Increase public safety both by reducing wildfire-related risks with strategic fuel reductions as well as by improving highway safety with increased sight distance along state and county roads.
- Improve aesthetic enjoyment for recreationists and create a positive framework for them to interact with restoration work by pairing tamarisk control with intensive active restoration at sites frequented by the public.

Economic Goals: employment, local investments, efficiency, and recreation

- Increase employment opportunities for contractors and youth in the Dolores River area.
- Invest in the local economies of the Dolores River Area.
- Improve effectiveness and financial efficiency of our riparian restoration efforts by identifying and promoting cost-saving methods.
- Enhance visitor travel to the area for recreation (e.g., rafting, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing).

Management Goals: learning, sharing, and improving

- Facilitate communications between land managers and partners to help coordinate treatments, share lessons learned and increase treatment effectiveness/efficiency by sharing resources and crossing administrative boundaries.
- Incorporate educational and interpretative practices to enhance public understanding and appreciation of riparian restoration actions.

The Shift to Monitoring and Maintenance

Since 2009, the DRRP has initiated and advanced active, intensive restoration on dozens of sites on public and private lands across the Dolores River towards accomplishing our partnership goals. We have treated over 1,100 of the 1,345 targeted acres of mature stands of tamarisk prioritized for control, treated dense swaths of Russian knapweed, and planted thousands of native grass plugs, shrubs, and trees. Initial treatments of tamarisk are projected to be completed on all prioritized public lands and most of the participating private lands by the end of 2015.

While active, high-intensity implementation efforts for many sites are still ongoing, across the watershed we are beginning to see sites where ecological goals have already been met. In 2012, for instance, 30 percent of our representative watershed-wide monitoring sites where active treatment had been initiated had already met our partnership's ecological goals. On sites like these, land managers are now shifting to a less intensive 'maintenance mode,' which can mean a number of changes in terms of planning, labor forces, equipment, and training needs.¹

Defining Success

While the partnership's watershed-wide ecological goals described above on page 3 provide the partnership's milestone for restoration success, the partnership has also developed a shorter-term objective to determine when a particular restoration site can transition (e.g. in terms of planning, equipment, and project capacity) from highly intensive project implementation to a less intensive but steadfast M&M mode:

Definition of Objectives Met Through Active Management: *Native or desirable plants are restored on a given site to the extent that, assuming appropriate long-term maintenance by the private landowner or public land manager, it is reasonably foreseeable that natural plant recruitment and succession will progress toward DR-RAP's long-term vision.*

Long-Term Partnership Vision (as stated in DR-RAP): *The Dolores River watershed is dominated by native vegetation, where the threats from tamarisk and other associated invasive species have been mitigated and the riparian areas of the watershed continue to become more naturally functioning, self-sustaining, diverse, and resilient over time.*

The point at which each individual site meets restoration objectives and transitions into a long-term M&M mode is occurring at different times across the watershed, based on a variety of factors (e.g. when a project was started, what site-based constraints exist).



¹ This transition plan is a living document, which the DRRP will update as it embarks on transitioning into the stage of monitoring and maintenance and when new information becomes available. Future information that is expected to inform such updates to the plan include: 2014 watershed-wide monitoring, refined budgets, the addendum to the DRRP Memorandum of Understanding, and an evaluation from the San Miguel River restoration project.

Based on preliminary progress reporting (see Appendix B) by several land managers, a number of sites totaling over 760 acres are beginning to display trends of natural recruitment and plant succession, while others are projected to be several years away from this critical milestone.

The partnership has predicted through long-term project planning that by 2017, more than 75 percent of restoration sites are anticipated to have transitioned from active, high-intensity implementation to less intensive M&M. Achieving the partnership's watershed-wide ecological goals (see page 3), however, will take significantly longer, but will be achieved through multiple years of continued maintenance activities as well as natural recruitment.

It is anticipated that the DRRP will need to continue maintenance at some level after 2019. Regular evaluation will lead not only to updates to this transition plan at annual partnership meetings, but also identification of needs, gaps, and opportunities in 2020 and beyond for achieving the partnership's watershed-wide ecological goals.

Monitoring

Monitoring is being conducted on all actively treated sites throughout the watershed to track success towards the partnership's watershed-wide ecological goals as well as individual land manager goals; to document and help plan for transitions from active, high-intensity implementation to less intensive M&M; to determine the effectiveness of different restoration methods used; and to inform adaptive management.

Because the original goals established for these restoration sites were ecological in nature, monitoring efforts have focused primarily on tracking changes in the quantity and quality of vegetation on the landscape resulting from invasive species control and revegetation efforts (see Appendix C for background). The DRRP is currently conducting six types of monitoring to serve the following purposes:

- **Rapid Monitoring** – Site inventories conducted on an annual basis on actively treated sites to inform ongoing implementation/maintenance efforts, and help individual land managers track progress/success towards restoration goals. Photo Point Monitoring and Progress Reporting Monitoring (both discussed below) are typically incorporated into Rapid Monitoring when requested by the land manager.
- **Pilot Project Monitoring** – Statistically valid data collection conducted every two years since 2010 on several pilot project sites to track the effectiveness of unique restoration treatments being tested to inform remaining restoration work.
- **Watershed-Wide Monitoring** – Statistically valid data collection on representative transects conducted every two years since 2010 to track our progress as a partnership towards meeting our watershed-



wide ecological restoration goals (page 3), as well as to track the success and failure of different restoration methods utilized throughout the watershed and inform adaptive management.

- **Progress Reporting Monitoring** - Tracks success towards meeting ‘Objectives Met through Active Management’ (see page 4) to help land managers plan for the shift in needs that come with transitioning from intensive project implementation to less-intensive maintenance; this monitoring effort also ensures that sites classified as ‘Objectives Met’ do not regress (see page 12 and Appendix B for more details)
- **Photo Point Monitoring** – Visually tracks success towards meeting land manager ecological restoration goals by taking repeat photos annually or every few years
- **Other Forms of Informal Site Monitoring (‘Walk-about’ or ‘Look-Sees’)** – Typically conducted on select sites slated to collect necessary specific implementation data, or other information useful for individual land managers to track their own restoration goals.

Purpose for Future Monitoring Efforts: Working with university and Conservation Corps partners, the DRRP Science & Monitoring Subcommittee will continue to implement the monitoring efforts already in place (described above) to track progress and inform planning efforts.

Expected Monitoring Products: While Rapid, Pilot Project, and Watershed-Wide Monitoring always result in the preparation of a formal report, we also plan on writing a final overall summary report for the partnership for Pilot Project Monitoring in 2016, and a summary report for the partnership for Watershed-Wide Monitoring in 2019. In particular, the 2014 Watershed-Wide Monitoring Report will inform this transition plan when it is updated in December 2014.

How Monitoring Will Be Accomplished: The DRRP Science & Monitoring Subcommittee (SMS) has developed a working group to ensure that monitoring remains relevant and effective to support short-term and long-term goals for the partnership. The DRRP SMS will be working closely with the Implementation Subcommittee to coordinate the below monitoring efforts. The current developing plan is as follows (see pages 10 and 11 for corresponding schedule):

- Our university partners will continue to conduct Watershed-Wide and Pilot Project Monitoring through 2018
- A University of Denver post-doctorate student is currently preparing an ‘Interim’ Summary Report for the Watershed Wide Monitoring, anticipated to be completed in 2014; it is estimated that we may be able to develop a similar opportunity for the 2019 Summary Report for the Watershed Wide Monitoring.
- Rapid Monitoring will continue to include a Progress Reporting component and will be conducted by Conservation Corps ‘Strike Team’ crews that are trained in a variety of key Monitoring & Maintenance activities (maintenance weed treatment, follow-up revegetation efforts, Rapid Monitoring) through 2019.
- Other forms of informal site monitoring (e.g. ‘Walk-about’, ‘Look-Sees’) will continue being conducted by land managers and/or members of the DRRP Implementation Subcommittee as needed throughout the field seasons
- Evaluate strategies to engage and train more local citizens and students that could support monitoring efforts.
- The DRRP SMS will continue to track other relevant research being conducted in the watershed (e.g. knapweed studies at the Rio Mesa Center, The Nature Conservancy study

examining geomorphology, bird assessments by BLM and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, and biocontrol studies conducted by the Palisade Insectary) to inform restoration practices.

Maintenance

Purpose for Long-Term Maintenance: The DRRP will rely on a variety of maintenance practices to remove stressors of invasive plants so that the riparian corridor of the Dolores River becomes increasingly more self-sustaining, diverse, and resilient over time:

- Conducting follow-up treatments on herbaceous weeds as well as tamarisk resprouts;
- Utilizing the tamarisk beetle as biocontrol in areas prioritized for passive treatment;
- Continuing seeding and planting of native grasses, shrubs, and trees in areas prioritized for active revegetation as well as caging select cottonwood trees; and
- Initiating active revegetation in select areas where passive/natural recruitment was anticipated but has not materialized

Expected Maintenance Products: The Implementation Subcommittee will continue to meet annually to vet site-based plans, share lessons learned from the field, and document adaptive management strategies. Presentations at annual meetings will be posted on the DRRP website. The Implementation Subcommittee will produce annual maintenance plans to guide specific activities for the upcoming year. These plans, modeled after the current process of implementation planning, are expected to be completed by February of each year.

How Maintenance Will Be Accomplished:

Maintenance across the watershed will be coordinated largely by TC, TNC, and SCC, with the guidance and support of the Implementation Subcommittee. A variety of partners will conduct on-the-ground maintenance activities:

- **Conservation and Youth Corps “Strike Teams”** comprised of 2 – 3 members, will conduct a variety of tasks, from retreating woody and herbaceous weeds, to installing temporary fencing, and doing small-scale plantings;
- **Private landowners** will steward and maintain their lands through a variety of methods; in-kind, long-term stewardship is accounted for in Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) contracts with landowners, many of whom have already made great investments in their riparian lands (e.g. treating knapweed with a backpack sprayer, using a bulldozer to clear tamarisk, and/or assessing the impacts of restoration treatments);
- **Contractors** will continue to aid in treating secondary weeds;
- **Volunteer groups** (e.g. the Dolores River Boating Advocates & local students) will assist with plantings and manual tamarisk treatments in the Wilderness Study Area



near Bedrock, CO and elsewhere;

- **Conservation Corps** crews will complete treatments of tamarisk and Siberian elm, assist with fencing, and aid with large-scale plantings; and
- **Local, state, and federal agency staff** such as county weed managers, as well as resource specialists from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and PFW, will continue to provide technical assistance, along with the Tamarisk Coalition (TC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Private Lands Engagement

To date, the DRRP has collaborated with more than a dozen private landowners to restore over 600 acres of riparian habitat between Disappointment Creek and the Dolores River's confluence with the Colorado River. Coordinating partners include PFW, NRCS, BLM, county weed managers, TC, TNC, and the Conservation Corps. To ensure future access for continued maintenance work (e.g. for a strike team to conduct follow-up Russian knapweed treatments for a private landowner), the partnership, on a case-by-case basis, will enter into either informal agreements or more formalized contracts with private landowners to complete work.

In addition to past work, the DRRP has initiated conversations with several private landowners that have yet to work with the partnership, but whose circumstances have evolved such that they are now more eager and/or able to engage in restoring their



riparian lands. Based on the conversations, the DRRP plans to begin project implementation on three additional private properties, comprised of approximately 150 acres, by the end of 2015. In addition, the partnership will continue holding conversations with four other private landowners who presently are not focused on riparian restoration, but who remain open to future discussions to assess opportunities. The anticipated 150 acres on private lands are accounted for in the projected implementation and maintenance costs outlined in the budget below, based on the current status of promising conversations and connections with these landowners.

Capacity Needs

Protecting the restoration investment made in the Dolores River watershed will fundamentally require the continued commitment and collaboration of partnering individuals and organizations. From the decision-makers that rally their staff, to the non-profit grant-writer, to the private landowner working remotely on a patch of Russian knapweed, this effort requires people's time. The partnership will continue to rely on trust, reciprocity, and good working relationships to meet capacity needs.

Current projections of capacity needed for partnership coordination and planning by Tamarisk Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Legacy (formerly known as Southwest Conservation Corps), and contractors from 2016 to 2019, in total, is approximately \$200,500. This does not include substantial in-kind contributions from private landowners and agency staff.

After 2015, organizations represented on the Core Team anticipate increasingly scaled-down roles and have made these commitments:

- Bureau of Land Management Field Offices will have primary responsibility for restoration on their respective lands; administer GIS progress reporting for public lands; and continue to provide funding for implementation as well as M&M work.
- Tamarisk Coalition is committed to partnership coordination, implementation and maintenance planning, fundraising, and overseeing science and monitoring.
- The Nature Conservancy will provide assistance with contracting for implementation and maintenance work, fundraising, and administering funding mechanisms.
- Conservation Legacy/SCC will fundraise, coordinate initial treatment and strike-team maintenance workforces across corps programs, and coordinate volunteer events.

Numerous partners have offered to provide important contributions, such as: monitoring, volunteerism, funding to support M&M, technical assistance, contracting and administrative support, training volunteers, conducting secondary weed treatments, and hiring Conservation Corps crews, strike teams, and interns. The specifics of these roles will be outlined with the Memorandum of Understanding amendment to be completed in spring 2015.



Budget

The following budget provides projections for all activities associated with this plan. Details for each activity are provided in the subsequent sections. Please note the following:

- A set of calculated assumptions relating to decreasing size and density of infestations for follow-up treatments was used to predict the cost for re-treatments of Russian knapweed and tamarisk;
- The below costs reflect an important assumption that the DRRP will continue to expand relationships with private landowners in the watershed; based on current relationships with volunteering private landowners, \$180,000 of anticipated project implementation and maintenance is included in the following table.
- These tasks include partnership capacity (projected cost of \$347,100), active project implementation (projected cost of \$380,000), less-intensive maintenance (projected cost of \$365,200), and monitoring (projected cost of \$165,000) between 2015 – 2019. These

projected cost estimates reflect cash expenses and not the important in-kind contributions (e.g. volunteer and agency staff support totaling more than \$100,000/year) that will be garnered by partners.

- The current cost projections for on-the-ground M&M for 2020 and beyond at sites warranting additional restoration treatments is estimated at \$35,000 per year. These costs will be refined during implementation of the transition plan.

Table 1: DRRP Needs from 2015 - 2019

Year	Task/Description	Approx. Cost (Cash)	Funds Raised to Date
2015	Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completion of initial tamarisk treatments on public lands ▪ Intensive active revegetation ▪ Initial treatments of Russian knapweed and tamarisk resprouts ▪ Initiating new projects with volunteering private landowners 	\$255,000	Secured: \$415,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BLM Assistance Agreement ▪ Hendricks Family Foundation ▪ NFWF-AGO ▪ Walton Family Foundation Pending: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BLM Healthy Lands Initiative ▪ Colorado State Forest Service Grant ▪ NFWF-PTI
	Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot treatments of woody and secondary weeds on over 750 acres 	\$85,700	
	Rapid Monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conducted across a sub-set of actively treated sites in the watershed 	\$15,000	
	Capacity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partnership coordination and planning 	\$146,600	
	Total for 2015	\$502,300	
2016	Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued treatments of dense Russian knapweed and tamarisk resprouts ▪ Advancing new projects with volunteering private landowners 	\$125,000	Secured: \$50,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BLM Assistance Agreement ▪ Hendricks Family Foundation Pending: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BLM Healthy Lands Initiative
	Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot treatments of woody and secondary weeds ▪ Active revegetation in areas where passive revegetation is not occurring 	\$86,500	
	Rapid Monitoring: same as previous assessment	\$15,000	
	Final Pilot Project Monitoring: conducted at several pilot plots in UFO-BLM	\$10,000	
	Watershed-Wide Monitoring: conducted at 40 representative transects	\$40,000	
	Capacity:	\$78,500	
	Total for 2016	\$355,000	
2017	Maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spot treatments of woody and secondary weeds on over 750 acres ▪ Active revegetation in areas where passive revegetation is not occurring 	\$90,000	Pending: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BLM Healthy Lands Initiative

	Rapid Monitoring: same as previous assessment	\$15,000	
	Capacity:	\$63,000	
	Total for 2017	\$168,000	
2018	Maintenance: same as previous year's prescriptions	\$60,000	Pending: ▪ BLM Healthy Lands Initiative
	Rapid Monitoring: same as previous assessment	\$15,000	
	Watershed-Wide Monitoring: same as previous assessment	\$40,000	
	Capacity:	\$37,000	
	Total for 2018	\$152,000	
2019	Maintenance: spot treatments	\$43,000	Pending: ▪ BLM Healthy Lands Initiative
	Rapid Monitoring: same as previous assessment	\$15,000	
	Capacity:	\$22,000	
	Total for 2019	\$80,000	
Total for 2015 - 2019		\$1,257,300	\$415,000
		total cost	total secured

Note: All costs in Table 1 reflect 2015 dollars and do not include inflation.

New Approaches for Fundraising

Since 2009, the DRRP has raised \$3.9 million in private and public funds (primarily through grants and the BLM Assistance Agreement) for project implementation (e.g. contractors using excavators, or trained crews equipped with chainsaws clearing daunting stands of tamarisk). Challenges remain to secure financial resources for the partnership, but a mixed approach of new and old tactics will be used.

The DRRP will continue to utilize available grant funds; however the partnership recognizes that many of the needs outlined in this transition plan are challenging to support through grant monies alone, due to the short-term and often restrictive nature of grant funding. Thus far, the DRRP has been able to balance the project-specific nature of grant funds with the utilization of the BLM Assistance Agreement, which has been much more flexible in terms of what the monies can be used for and when (i.e., it helps to fill gaps not covered by grant dollars).

To meet our **remaining fundraising goal of approximately \$842,300**, the DRRP's Funding Subcommittee is focusing on the following three main components of the DRRP's fundraising plan (see Appendix D for more details on the fundraising plan):

- 1) **Apply for grants:** The DRRP will maintain their traditional approach through the funding subcommittee to apply strategically for grants. For example the subcommittee utilizes existing relationships with grantors for select work (e.g. Colorado Water Conservation Board, Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative).

- 2) **Renew the BLM Assistance Agreement:** DRRP is working with BLM to secure additional funding (e.g. perhaps through the Healthy Lands Initiative) that would populate the Assistance Agreement with additional funding.
- 3) **Create a “Partnership Fund”:** The fund will be comprised of multiple funding inputs, managed by a third party community foundation, and will be spent as needed by the DRRP to cover relevant monitoring and maintenance needs. The fund will differ from the traditional approach of utilizing grant money in that it will be able to house individual and corporate donations and other more discretionary funds that can then be used as needed by the partnership. It will function similarly to the Assistance Agreement in that it provides flexibility, accessibility, and responsiveness to the needs of the DRRP (see Appendix D for more details).

Complementary strategies to support the fundraising plan include:

- Keeping the Funding Subcommittee active and engaged in DRRP fundraising efforts
- Work with federal and state agencies to sustain larger investments in DRRP project work (e.g. Colorado Parks & Wildlife Species Conservation Trust Fund).
- Build and cultivate sustaining relationships with both existing and new funders
- Developing a campaign that leverages multiple sources of funding and major donations to establish the Partnership Fund
- Identifying a list of viable, interested donors
- Integrating these funding efforts with the communications initiative (see page 13)
- Increasing local capacity (e.g. in the form of staff or volunteers) to help implement some of the more involved fundraising strategies (e.g. donor outreach, organizing events) that the Funding Subcommittee develops

Progress Tracking and Annual Reporting

The DRRP will continue to produce annual reports (see Appendix F) to track progress towards our shared goals. Additionally, with restoration work occurring across two states, four BLM field offices, and six counties, the DRRP will also begin utilizing a Geographic Information System that will (1) spatially and more consistently track restoration treatments that have been conducted across the watershed and (2) report progress towards meeting key milestones for restoration success (see Appendix B for more details). BLM will play a leading role in maintaining this tracking system.



Communication Plan

In order to be successful with fundraising and telling our story, a communications strategy and new multi-media resources are needed to tap into existing channels and promote the work of the partnership.

Table 4: Priorities for Future DRRP Communications

	Objective	Audiences	Avenues
1.	Fundraising	Current and potential donors and grantors	Existing relationships that partners have with funders
2.	Continued relevance & staff support	Key decision-makers from agencies and organizations	Biannual partnership meetings, site visits, office presentations
3.	Developing multi-media tools for showing successes & accomplishments	Current and potential donors and grantors, key decision-makers from agencies and organizations, DRRP, upland landowners, students, and communities	Videos, annual reports, newsletters, field trips, presentations, before/after photos
4.	Internal partnership motivation	The DRRP	DRRP website, annual reports, seasonal newsletters, biannual partnership meetings, workshops
5.	Stakeholder awareness and stewardship	Upland landowners, students, and communities	Workshops, volunteer events, DRRP website, biannual meetings
6.	Keeping informed and sharing lessons learned	Complementary programs or initiatives in the project area	Communicating with key partners who attend other stakeholder meetings (see Appendix E for more details) Participating in the Cross-Watershed Network

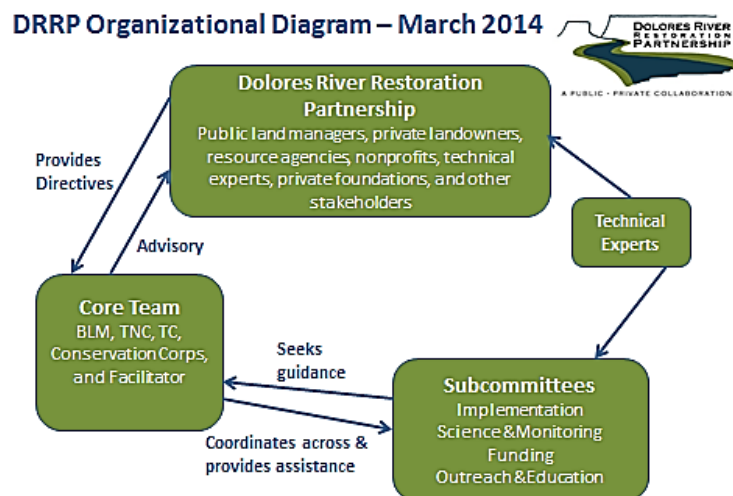
Expertise in marketing and communications to help develop and implement this plan has been identified as a fundamental gap among the current partnership members. As such, the Core Team is reaching out to other professionals with skill sets in marketing and public relations for assistance in developing this communications and marketing plan.



Governance and Partnership Commitment

At its inception, the DRRP was developed as what some scholars (e.g. Imperial & Koontz 2007) refer to as an “inter-organizational network”. In such an arrangement, this network of partners does not possess regulatory power, but relies on trust and good working relationships to make decisions and respond to emerging challenges, needs, and opportunities. Those roles and relationship, in turn, were formalized with a DRRP Memorandum of Understanding, signed and completed in 2010. Several topical subcommittees and an advisory Core Team, comprised of the subcommittee chairs and BLM leadership, assist the overall partnership in reaching its restoration goals.

Across the board, DRRP partners believe this current network arrangement, which represents substantial years of building social capital, can and should be sustained. Additionally, partners have articulated a commitment to meeting—through subcommittees, workshops, and at annual meetings—for years to come.



- The Implementation, Science & Monitoring, and Funding Subcommittees as well as the Core Team have been identified as critical for implementing the transition plan.
- The DRRP has decided to amend the original, 2010 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to affirm and renew partners' roles and responsibilities for advancing this transition plan. The MOU will be signed by partners by spring 2015, covering key roles such as fundraising, conducting monitoring and maintenance, providing partnership coordination, and maintaining GIS progress reporting.
- Cooperative agreements, assistance agreements, and other mechanisms will continue to be implemented and/or explored to support M&M work.

Conclusion

Implementing this transition plan will provide important opportunities for self-appraisal, refinement, and learning that will be shared not only within the DRRP, but also with other restoration partnerships.

The DRRP also recognizes that the implementation of this transition plan will impact people and organizations in various ways. As such, this plan seeks to be transparent and timely; informative and based on feedback from all partners; as well as comprehensive and responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities.

With these values and the long-term monitoring and maintenance strategies outlined here and in the accompanying appendices, the DRRP is confident that we have the right set of tools and commitments to protect our shared investments in the Dolores River.



Appendices A – F

See enclosure for appendices that provide background and additional details related to this plan.