

Appendix A: Updated DRRP Goals & Metrics

Background:

In 2010, the Dolores River Riparian Action Plan (DR-RAP) was created as a living document to initiate and facilitate an increased level of collaboration and communication among the stakeholders to enhance information transfer, adaptive management, and likelihood of large scale, meaningful success. After four years of implementing DR-RAP, we have shared many resources and enhanced our understandings of success in this challenging riparian system. Given our collective experience and learning, here we look back to this living document to update, refine, and clarify our understanding of success.

Based largely on an evaluation by the Science and Monitoring Subcommittee of the ecological goal and discussions in the Core Team of the social, economic, and management goals, the following updates and modifications were proposed to DR-RAP's four goals. These proposed amendments were vetted and agreed upon during our November 21, 2013 biannual partnership meeting in Montrose, CO. Substantive additions are noted below with [blue-text](#).

Executive Summary:

While a number of adjustments were made, four substantive refinements or updates were agreed to:

1. A new benchmark has been included for the ecological goals: in the original ecological goals, which use relative cover percentage, a site that is almost entirely bare ground could theoretically be determined a success. As such, the Science and Monitoring Subcommittee suggested a modification: in addition to the existing relative cover goals, adding a minimum "30% total vegetation cover" threshold for actively treated sites.
2. When DR-RAP was completed in 2010, only one form of partnership tracking existed: watershed-wide monitoring, a statistically rigorous protocol based on detailed assessments of 40 representative transects located throughout the watershed.

Since 2010, rapid monitoring and progress reporting mechanisms have been developed to meet land manager needs for assessing all actively treated project sites (i.e. not just the 40 representative transects). These ocular surveys are based on ranges (e.g. 50-75% native cover) and incorporate land managers' professional judgment as to when native or desirable plants are restored in these sites to the extent that, assuming appropriate long-term maintenance by the private landowner or public land manager, it is reasonably foreseeable that plant succession will progress toward DRRP's long-term vision. There are several sections where these advances in how we track and monitor our work are now reflected.

3. In the social goal, greater focus is included for emphasizing youth corps programs and the next generation of stewards.
4. New metrics are included for the social, economic, and management goals to track our progress.

Updated Goals for the DRRP

- Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Realistic, & Timely -

The Goals described below have been agreed upon by the Dolores River Restoration Partnership.

Ecologic – Over the next 5 years (2011 to 2015) the Partnership will 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. Achieving these goals can result in improved ecosystem services, increased forage and wildlife habitat, wildfire reduction, improved water resources, and overall improved ecosystem integrity. In order to accomplish these ecologic goals, the following watershed-wide objectives were developed:



1. Live tamarisk will be reduced to less than 5 percent of the vegetation cover within the riparian corridor. This will be accomplished using:
 - a. Active Control Measures: in areas that meet the Criteria for Prioritization (Table 1)
 - b. Tamarisk Biological Control: in areas that meet the Criteria for Prioritizing sites for Passive Tamarisk Control
2. Other invasive, non-native plants will be reduced to less than 15 percent of the vegetation cover within the riparian corridor.
3. The remaining percent vegetation cover within the riparian corridor will be composed of desirable or native species (e.g. greater than 80 percent).
4. **NEW:** 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).
5. Representative sites throughout the watershed (both passively and actively treated) will be selected and subsequently monitored and maintained to a point of success (meeting #1-4 above) and will be used to track watershed-wide progress.
6. Each of the active treatment sites will be monitored and maintained to a point of success (either meeting #1-4 above, or meeting similar requirements determined by progress reporting and the professional judgment of individual land managers), requiring a reduced and sustainable level of management as they shift into the phase of long-term monitoring and maintenance.
7. Passive restoration sites where tamarisk biological control is the main control mechanism will be monitored for vegetation response and mortality over the next five years to:

- a. Develop an enhanced understanding of the tamarisk leaf beetle's role and impacts on the riparian community;
- b. Incorporate, or plan for, their impacts in restoration treatments.

Additionally, beetle population movements along the length of the river will be monitored in coordination with the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the Southeast Utah Riparian Partnership.

8. 90 percent of the riparian corridor within the Dolores River watershed project area will meet #1-4 and #7 stated above without surpassing the capacity to accomplish #6.
9. The Dolores River Partnership Funding Subcommittee will identify funding to control secondary invasive species and restore native species in these areas where necessary.

Monitoring efforts required above will be satisfied through DRRP Watershed-Wide Monitoring (to satisfy #5), DRRP Rapid Monitoring + DRRP Progress Reporting Monitoring (to satisfy #6), and DRRP Watershed-Wide Monitoring + Colorado Department of Agriculture Monitoring (to satisfy #7).

Social – Over the next 5 years (2011 to 2015) the following social goals will be achieved through riparian restoration along the Dolores River. They are listed here with the understanding that their implementation may alter decision making in management issues. As such, the following must be considered when creating DR-RAP Implementation Plans:



1. **NEW: Increase opportunities for the next generation of stewards with regional conservation and youth corps programs that support underserved young adults.** DR-RAP implementation will require specialized skills relating to all aspects of tamarisk management and revegetation activities that will serve to augment the current workforce. Additionally, youth programs emphasize job skill training, work ethics, stewardship ethics, and an understanding and respect of public land conservation and management. All of these points are extremely important for federal land management agencies that are encountering a significant loss in staff due to retirement and will need dedicated, knowledgeable new staff to fill these voids.

NEW: Associated measurable objectives =

- Average hours of education and training provided to each Conservation Corps member engaged in restoration work from the Dolores River Area
- Total hours of service provided to the DRRP by Youth Corps members
- Total amount of AmeriCorps dollars garnered by Corps members

2. 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.

NEW: Associated measurable objectives =

- Number of treatment sites in publicly accessible areas (e.g. along the scenic byway, near boat launch sites, camp sites, and other attractions)
- Anecdotal, qualitative feedback on improvement to aesthetics

2. 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. This will be achieved by conducting tamarisk removal and shrub restoration on sites selected in coordination with the Colorado Department of Transportation.

NEW: Associated measurable objectives =

- Number of buildings or structures where tamarisk was removed from their vicinity
- Miles of highway along which tamarisk has been removed to improve sight distance

Economic – Over the next 5 years (2011 to 2015) the following economic goals will be achieved through riparian restoration along the Dolores River. They are listed here with the understanding that their implementation may alter decision making in management issues. As such, the following must be considered when creating DR-RAP Implementation Plans:

1. Increase employment opportunities for contractors and youth in the Dolores River area.

Associated measurable objectives =

- Number of contractors, youth corps members, and interns engaged in restoration work from the Dolores River Area



2. Invest in the local economies of the Dolores River Area Associated measurable objectives

NEW: Associated measurable objectives =

- Amount invested in local economies and projected roll-over effect in communities

3. Improve effectiveness and financial efficiency of our riparian restoration efforts by identifying and promoting cost-saving methods.

Associated measurable objectives =

- Qualitative anecdotes highlighting compelling methods

4. Enhance visitor travel to the area for recreation (e.g., rafting, hiking, hunting, and wildlife viewing).

NEW: Associated measurable objectives =

- Number of camp sites improved

5. Garner and leverage funds from local, state, federal, and private sources to advance funding strategies.

Associated measurable objectives =

- Amount of funds raised and leveraged annually

Management – Over the next 5 years (2011 to 2015) the following management goals will be achieved through riparian restoration along the Dolores River:

1. 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.



Lessons learned during restoration efforts can inform later work, improving efficiencies and the likelihood of long-term, large-scale success; (i.e., adaptive management). These “lessons learned” can also inform work in other watersheds.

NEW: Associated measurable objectives =

- Number of workshops, training opportunities, collective site visits, and subcommittee meetings focused on lessons learned completed per year;
- Number and type of resources shared with other watersheds per year

2. Incorporate educational and interpretative practices to enhance public understanding and appreciation of riparian restoration actions.

NEW: Associated measurable objectives =

- Number of brochures distributed & presentations made by partners

Appendix B: DRRP Progress Reporting

In 2013, the DRRP began working towards developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) that would spatially track restoration treatments across the watershed. After many deliberations and initial data collection efforts in 2013, there was collective recognition that two different forms of GIS tracking were required.

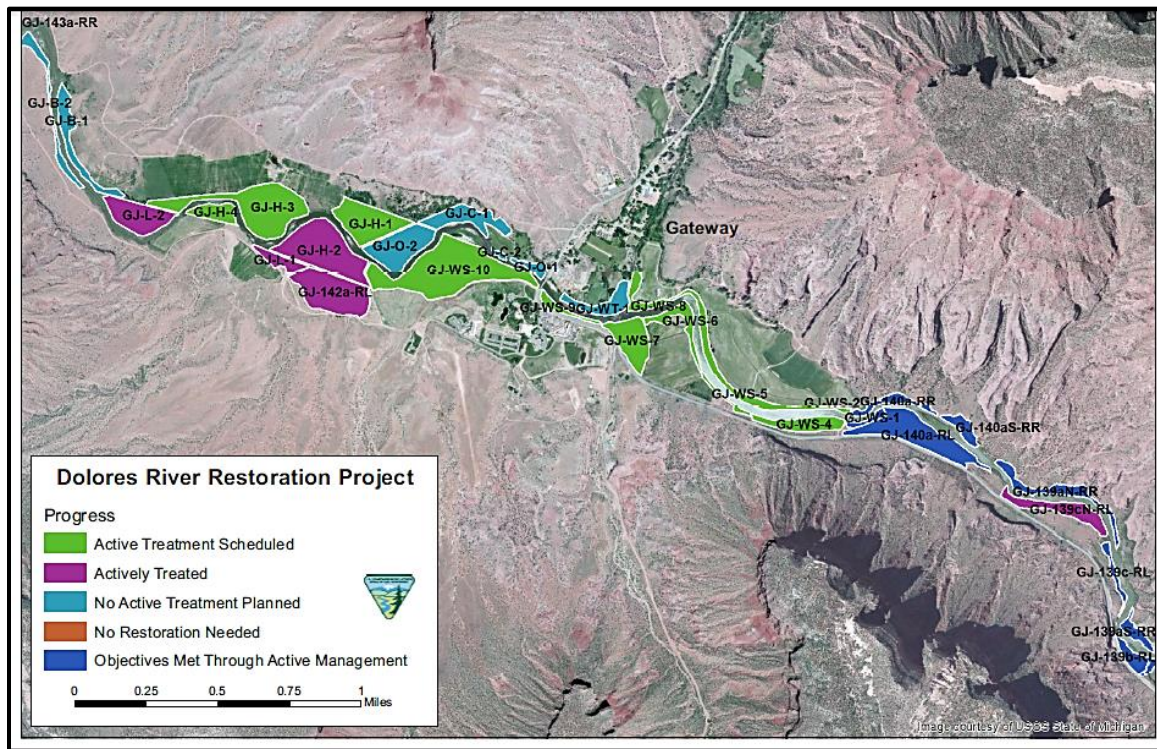
The first GIS tracking will be an annually updated inventory of all restoration treatments (e.g. controlling tamarisk or planting grasses) conducted on each restoration project site, by year. “Treatment polygons” have been developed so that land managers can use a shared spatial tool and language to track active restoration site treatments consistently across the watershed. Site treatments are categorized as follows:

- a. **Manual Treatment of Woody Invasives** - applies to all cut stump treatments.
- b. **Mechanical Treatment of Woody Invasives** – typically an excavator, but also applies to brush-hog operations.
- c. **Treatment of Woody Invasive Resprouts** – normally chemical applications
- d. **Treatment of Secondary Weeds** – both initial and follow-up treatments, most often chemical control of knapweed.
- e. **Active Revegetation** – for example, planting, seeding, and cottonwood caging.

These categories identify process steps that might be necessary on a given restoration site. In some areas, one type of treatment may not be necessary; in others a treatment may need to be repeated. Using treatment polygons to tally the acreage of these actions is an excellent means of indicating accomplishment and, in some cases, is required by some funders.

While tallying the acreage of restoration treatments with “treatment polygons” is an excellent way of tracking inputs, the DRRP recognized that we also needed to track our *outputs* towards our ecological goals. Hence, a second database was designed to report progress towards meeting restoration goals. “Report polygons” are categorized as follows:

1. **No Restoration Needed** – The polygon was already in desired condition, and no action by the partnership is warranted.
2. **No Active Treatment Scheduled or Intended** – The Partnership does not intend to conduct active treatments in the polygon because of factors such as a) tamarisk leaf beetles alone are deemed sufficient to eventually meet objectives, b) the polygon is owned by a landowner who chooses not to participate in Partnership operations, or c) the polygon is too inaccessible to efficiently conduct treatments.
3. **Active Treatment Scheduled** – The segment will be actively treated, but no action has been taken prior to the report date.
4. **Actively Treated** – The Partnership has taken specific action in the polygon, in one or more of the treatment categories.
5. **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 - *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.*



Above: an example of report polygons that track progress towards ecological goals.

It is worth stepping back to note how the partnership/watershed-wide ecological goals listed in Appendix A align with and are distinct from the site-specific land manager ecological goals (“Objectives Met through Active Management”) described here in Appendix B.

While the partnership/watershed-wide ecological goals described in Appendix A were agreed to by the entire DRRP and still stand as a solid measure for overall partnership success, it is important to recognize that the individual land managers who make up the DRRP also have their own set of ‘site-specific’ ecological goals. These ‘site-specific’ goals are typically driven by a complex host of factors including differing land use, differing aesthetic preferences, original state of a given site, and political or legal considerations.

The ‘Objectives Met’ definition provides a unifying concept/planning tool to help land managers think through when they have achieved their own site-based goals and, subsequently, when high intensity, active implementation of a site transitions to lower intensity M&M. Ongoing M&M efforts, in turn, are expected to push sites towards the longer term ecological goals of the partnership.

The Bureau of Land Management is overseeing the development and maintenance of the progress reporting GIS. As of May 23, 2014, GIS data reflecting the partnership’s restoration efforts through 2013 was still being gathered.

Appendix C: Monitoring and Maintenance

Since 2010, the same year DR-RAP was completed, the DRRP began watershed-wide monitoring as a step towards ensuring meaningful restoration success. Since this time, monitoring efforts have been revised and expanded to best serve the evolving needs of the partnership. The following section explains the different types of monitoring currently being conducted for the DRRP, the methods used, the ways in which each monitoring effort serves the partnership, and how all the different pieces fit together.

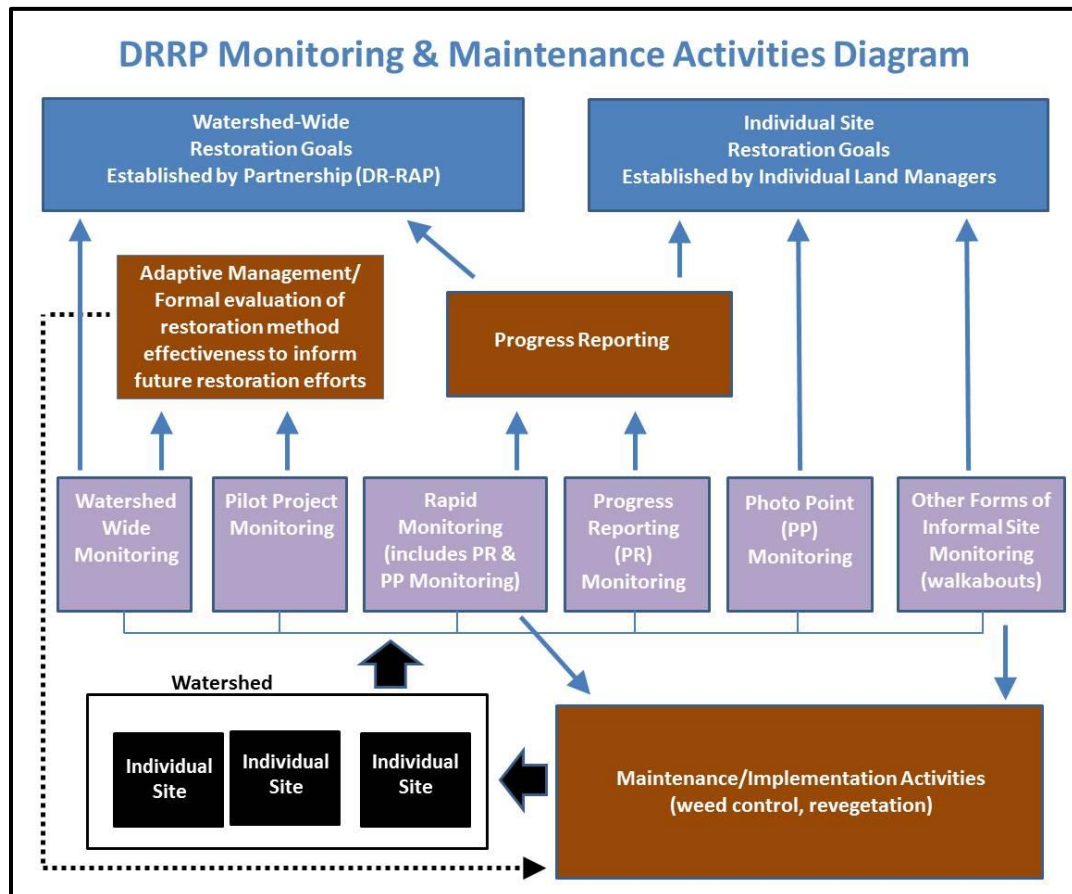
In general, DRRP monitoring efforts serve the following purposes. They are used to:

- Track progress/success towards meeting partnership ‘watershed-wide’ restoration goals
- Track progress/success towards meeting individual land manager ‘site specific’ restoration goals
- Determine implementation/maintenance needs for the upcoming season
- Formally evaluate restoration method effectiveness and inform adaptive management
- Inform Progress Reporting efforts

The DRRP currently conducts six types of monitoring to accomplish this:

- Rapid Monitoring
- Pilot Project (PP) Monitoring
- Watershed-Wide Monitoring
- Progress Reporting (PR) Monitoring
- Photo Point Monitoring
- Other Forms of Informal Site Monitoring (‘Walk-about’ or ‘Look-Sees’)

The following diagram demonstrates how all of the pieces fit together.



The following describes each monitoring effort in more detail:

- **Rapid Monitoring**
 - Purpose: 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.
 - Where: Formally conducted on select Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sites
 - When: To date conducted 2011, 2012, 2013
 - Who: Typically Conservation Corps/interns or BLM Field Offices
 - Data collected: (for ex) Size/acreage of remaining weed infestations; survival rate/success of seeding and planting efforts; Progress Reporting data collection and Photo Point data collection usually incorporated (see below for description of those). Involves surveying entire site.
- **Watershed-Wide Monitoring**
 - Purpose: To track our progress as a partnership towards meeting our watershed-wide ecological restoration goals, as well as to track the success and failure of different restoration methods utilized throughout the watershed and inform adaptive management.
 - Where: Conducted at 40 sites located throughout the watershed
 - When: To date conducted 2010, 2011, 2012
 - Who: Data collected by University partners
 - Data collected: Type and quantity of different vegetation/groundcover present. Statistically valid data collection along representative transects. Only surveying representative portion of a given site.
- **Pilot Project Monitoring**
 - Purpose: To track the effectiveness of unique restoration treatments being tested to inform remaining restoration work and adaptive management
 - Where: Conducted on 4 sites (subdivided to create 24 total plots) located within Uncompahgre BLM field office; looking at more intensive and some unique active restoration treatments within a single geographic area
 - When: To date conducted 2010, 2012
 - Who: Data collected by University partners
 - Data collected: Type and quantity of different vegetation/groundcover present. Statistically valid data collection along representative transects. Only surveying representative portion of a given site.
- **Progress Reporting Monitoring**
 - Purpose: Tracks success towards meeting land manager ecological restoration goals (see Appendix B for details), and can assist with tracking success towards meeting partnership watershed wide ecological restoration goals; this monitoring effort also ensures that sites classified as ‘Objectives Met through Active Management’ do not regress.
 - Where: (some form of this) Should be occurring at all treated sites; incorporated into Rapid Monitoring efforts when requested
 - When: Conducted informally prior to 2013; more formally since 2013
 - Who: Land managers (or Conservation Corps crew when conducted as part of Rapid Monitoring)
 - Data collected: Progress Reporting data (see Appendix B for more details). Involves surveying entire site.
- **Photo Point Monitoring**
 - Purpose: Visually track progress/success towards meeting land manager restoration goals
 - Where: Occurring on select BLM sites currently, as part of Rapid Monitoring efforts; also occurring on other select land manager sites
 - When: Annually or every few years
 - Who: Rapid Monitoring crew, or individual land managers

- Data Collected: Repeat photo points (typically minimum of 3 per site) taken from the exact same location each time. Typically includes at least one ‘overview’ photo of entire site when possible, plus several photos on site of representative treatment areas
- **Other Forms of Informal Site Monitoring (e.g. Walkabouts, ‘Look-sees’)**
 - Purpose: 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.
 - Where: Various individual land manager sites, as needed
 - When: Some form conducted every year since Partnership initiation
 - Who: Typically DRRP Implementation Subcommittee members and/or land managers
 - Data collected: Specific implementation data, or other information used to track progress towards meeting restoration goals. May involve surveying entire site, or only portion of site.

Appendix D: Partnership Fund

Overview:

One important component of our fundraising goal is to create a “Partnership Fund,” which will be comprised of multiple, discretionary funding sources. The vision is for the Partnership Fund to be managed by a third party such as a community foundation—of which there are four foundations local to the Dolores River. This fund will be structured so that it can encumber grant funds, collect private donations from individuals and foundations, and leverage them towards augmenting the fund. The fund overall will support partnership activities such as project implementation, long-term monitoring and maintenance, capacity and outreach. It will function much like the BLM Assistance Agreement in that it provides flexibility on where and when monies can be spent which is helpful in filling in voids left by project-specific grant funds.

Management:

The DRRP will work with one or all of the community foundations working in the Dolores River watershed area (e.g. Telluride Community Foundation, Montrose Community Foundation, Western Colorado Community Foundation) to create a fund that they would manage on behalf of the DRRP. Such a fund could be an endowment or a spend-down fund, depending on the goals of the DRRP, and the amount that they are able to fundraise. The main benefit of working through a community foundation is that they can manage and oversee funds for an extended period of time on behalf of the group. This is a valuable service for a project that may have less participation and administrative capacity over time as more and more work is completed.

Establishing the Fund:

The DRRP will develop a campaign that leverages multiple sources of funding and major donations to establish the fund. This strategy includes fundraising from existing and new donors.

- **Large donations from existing donors:** Identification of the agencies, foundations and individuals with a vested interest in the Dolores River and making one final large “ask” to each of them. The pitch would focus on the importance of protecting prior investments in the watershed. This ask would be separate and apart from the traditional grant application process that partners have followed to date, in that it would need to be large contribution from the different sources to the entire partnership instead a grant to a single non-profit. Additionally, the “ask” would need to be couched in terms that illustrate how the partnership plans to leverage this money in multiple ways. In other words, the partnership would need to outline how it was going to use this final large contribution to solicit more donations and identify who would be asked for those donations.
- **New donors:** New investments are a critical component of establishing the fund. DRRP has outlined numerous tools in the transition plan that will assist with telling the DRRP story and garnering new supporters. Donations will be targeted to both private and family foundations, individuals, and corporations.

Schedule for Developing Partnership Fund:

Task	Deadline	Lead
Develop an accurate	March - April 2014	Peter and Daniel

fundraising goal based on all of the anticipated costs of the partnership, to include capacity needs to be set.		
Develop a list of viable, interested donors in the region (e.g. Hendricks Foundation, Packard Foundation, CRD, El Pomar, corporations, individuals, etc...). This list should be comprised of entities that already have a strong relationship or affinity for the DRRP. The entire partnership should provide input on who should be included in this list.	June 2014 April Partnership Meeting	FSC (focus on big funders) Rusty, Daniel, Peter (solicit ideas for smaller pool of possible local donors from partnership)
Develop a gift table identifying the number and estimated contributions of each donor will need to be developed.	June 2014	Kristen and FSC
Assess capacity for fostering relationships with individual donors. The partnership will likely need to lean on resources such as TC and TNC staff to approach certain donors.	July 2014	FSC
Send out informational mailers to local residents to educate them about the importance of the work on the Dolores.	Fall 2014	TC – Daniel
Organize one or multiple field trips for potential donors and representatives from other funding sources to demonstrate the impact of the work being done by the partnership (e.g. PFW, IWJV, Pheasants Unlimited, Hunting groups, etc...)	Summer and Fall 2014	DRRP
Communicate with the Community Foundation(s) about its proposed plan and assess the extent to which it/they can help to leverage	June/July 2014	Kristen and Rusty

contributions to a fund and the type of fund that should be created.		
Develop a firm plan for approaching the donors as well as a well-developed pitch and presentation.	August - September 2014	FSC
Recruit or hire added capacity to help implement the fundraising strategy (see Communications Plan)	TBD	DRRP
Schedule meetings with potential large donors and make pitch.	August – October 2014	FSC
Schedule meetings with smaller donors to make “asks”.	October – December 2014	TBD

Appendix E: Communications

Within the Dolores River Watershed, there are numerous other programs and partnerships that are interested in the Dolores River; several of these have been identified as having clear overlap with the DRRP and important to stay in touch with after 2015.

In order to share resources and lessons learned, promote awareness of the DRRP and watershed stewardship, connect with the new funders, and maintain relevance with other cross-cutting initiatives in the watershed (e.g. groups like the Dolores River Dialogue, which is addressing the germane system stressor of altered flows), the DRRP will maintain communications with several other programs, including:

Initiative	Focus of Program
Southeast Utah Riparian Partnership (SURP)	SURP formed in 2006 to coordinate restoration efforts along the Colorado River and its tributaries in southeastern Utah. Several DRRP partners work directly with SURP. <i>Primary points of contact: Sue Bellagamba (TNC) and Daniel Oppenheimer (TC)</i>
Dolores River Dialogue (DRD)	DRD is a coalition of diverse interests, whose purpose is to explore management opportunities, build support for and take action to improve the ecological conditions downstream of McPhee Reservoir while honoring water rights, protecting agricultural and municipal water supplies, and the continued enjoyment of rafting and fishing. Several DRRP partners work directly with the DRD. <i>Primary point of contact: Peter Mueller (TNC), David Graf (CPW)</i>
Unaweep-Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway Corridor Management	Management of the byway is intended to embrace and maintain the area's history, lifestyles, and cultures; protect the natural beauty, outdoor experiences and recreation opportunities; increase the economic viability and sustainability of byway communities; facilitate synergy and collaboration with all byway communities, partners, and governing agencies. The byway (Highways 141 and 145 between Whitewater and Placerville) runs along significant stretches of the Dolores and San Miguel Rivers. <i>Primary point of contact: Daniel Oppenheimer (TC)</i>

This is not intended to be an exclusive list, but rather represent current relationships with programs that have been identified as having noticeable relevance to the DRRP; new partners are important for a variety of reasons (e.g. re-invigorating the process, sharing lessons and other resources). Further, the DRRP is committed to sharing its lessons learned with and learning from other watershed partnerships and practitioners.



A PUBLIC - PRIVATE COLLABORATION

Appendix F: 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



In 2013, the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) attained a seasoned level of maturity. While completing a full year of restoration activities on over 910 acres of the Dolores River's riparian corridor—creating 59 jobs along the way—we also looked far ahead.

We thought through complicated subjects such as what the transition point looks like when the DRRP steps back as a partnership and hands a restoration site back to a land manager. We revisited and updated our shared goals as well as added several metrics to track our progress, which is reflected in the following pages.

We agreed that, after implementing the Dolores River-Riparian Action Plan, we needed to protect our investment of dollars, time, and good working relationships by developing a plan for long-term monitoring and maintenance. And now we are taking steps to make that plan a reality.

Ecological Goals: Increasing Healthy Riparian Plant Communities

Completing our fifth year of intensive implementation, the DRRP had many skilled hands working on the ground to enhance riverside habitat. Conservation Corps crews, smaller strike teams of interns, contractors, individual private landowners and public land managers, as well as dozens of volunteers together completed over 910 acres of restoration treatments along the Dolores River and its tributaries, from the expansive basin invigorated by Disappointment Creek all the way down to Lake Bottom, located just above the Dolores River's confluence with the Colorado River above Dewey Bridge.

Riparian Restoration by the Numbers:

284.5 the number of acres of tamarisk stands initially treated by Corps crews with chain saws or contractors with excavators

76 the number of acres of tamarisk resprouts treated by agency staff and strike-teams of interns

156 the number of acres where private landowners, volunteers, agency staff, and Corps crews planted and seeded native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees

394 the number of acres of secondary weeds (e.g. Russian knapweed) treated by strike teams, private landowners, private contractors, and agency staff

767 the number of acres where native or desirable plants are restored to the extent that, assuming appropriate long-term maintenance, it is reasonably foreseeable that plant succession will progress toward a more naturally functioning, self-sustaining, diverse, and resilient riparian corridor



Social Goals: Supporting Youth, Enhancing Public Safety and Aesthetics

In our commitment to the next generation of stewards, we created 50 opportunities for youth and young adults through 8-person Conservation Corps crews, small strike teams, and internships.

19,100 the number of hours these 50 young individuals contributed to restoring the Dolores River

126 the average number of hours of training that each Corps member received

\$30,000 the total amount of AmeriCorps Education Awards that nearly 30 of these individuals garnered

460 the number of hours of service that volunteers provided working side-by-side with Corps crews and other partners to manually treat tamarisk and cage cottonwood trees

To date, we have reduced tamarisk fuel loads and associated risks of wildfire around more than a dozen structures—from homes in Gypsum Valley and Slickrock, to the water treatment plant north of Gateway, to a developed camp site at the Rio Mesa Center—as well as along over 25 miles of the Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway. Restoration work along the scenic byway has, in turn, revealed to travelers the river and scenic vistas previously concealed by dense stands of tamarisk and Siberian Elm.



“This kind of work attracts the kind of hearty people who can deal with uncertainty and roll with the punches, day in and day out. It may not be for everyone, but if you finish a season, you finish it with new skills and abilities that can benefit all aspects of your life.”

—Chris Panawa, 2013 SCC Crew

Economic Goals: Committing to Local Investment, Efficiency, and Recreation

In addition to creating 50 jobs for Conservation Corps crew members, interns, and strike teams, an additional 9 jobs were created for local contractors for activities ranging from graphic design of the signs to be installed as part of an interpretive trail along the Dolores River to mechanical treatments of dense stands of tamarisk.

\$993,575 represents our 2013 economic footprint, in terms of the expenditures and partnership resources invested in local economies.

Having several years of active implementation under our belts, we have continued to increase efficiencies in our restoration efforts:

- Showcasing project success to enlist new private landowners
- Hiring, training, and mentoring highly capable interns
- Adopting new site-specific strategies informed by pilot projects and lessons learned from the field

In addition to enhancing the view shed, the DRRP has also improved more than twenty dispersed and developed campsites along the Dolores River by clearing out weeds and making these assets once again accessible and inviting to outdoor enthusiasts.



“The DRRP is a sustained program capable of meeting a wide range of social, ecological, and economic goals. We will be looking to capitalize on the partnership’s effectiveness whenever the opportunity arises -- in my 36 year career, the DRRP has been the most reliable and productive partner.”

– James Cagney, BLM Northwest Colorado District Manager

Management Goals: Learning, Sharing, and Improving

Building on lessons learned is the essence of the DRRP's management goal, to improve the likelihood of long-term, large-scale success. We have pursued this process-based goal in a variety of ways. Some highlights from this year include:

- Hosted a Plant ID & Rapid Monitoring Workshop in Bedrock—attended by 22 people
- Coordinated a field trip to Watson Island in Grand Junction for partners to learn about irrigation methods, a new pollinator garden, and other restoration practices—attended by 12 partners
- Held a panel discussion on revegetation science and practice at a biannual meeting—attended by 35 people
- Held an annual Implementation Subcommittee Meeting for practitioners to share lessons learned—attended by 23 people
- Conducted rapid monitoring on 279 acres to inform short-term adaptive management

In addition to sharing lessons learned within the partnership, the DRRP also continued to share its experiences and resources with other watershed groups. Resources that were shared with groups in Arizona, Colorado, and Utah included: the Dolores River Riparian Action Plan, our rapid-monitoring protocol, cottonwood planting techniques, and tools we have developed for planning towards long-term monitoring and maintenance.



Looking to the Future

While active restoration of sites is anticipated for several more years, across the watershed we are starting to see some sites where objectives have already been met. In these sites, land managers are shifting to a less intensive maintenance mode, which can mean a number of changes, in terms of planning, labor forces, equipment, and training needs.

In the coming months, the DRRP will finalize and begin to implement its Monitoring and Maintenance (M&M) Plan. This M&M Plan will not only address emerging on-the-ground opportunities and needs, but also include a variety of new strategies—from fundraising to streamlining our governance—to ensure successful restoration of the Dolores River.



Many, Many Thanks!

A public-private partnership like the DRRP fundamentally relies on trust, reciprocity, and good working relationships to achieve shared goals. 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, to the land managers providing technical assistance, to the volunteers chipping away at tamarisk, this effort requires people's time.



Thank you to everyone for your time, grit, candor, thoughtfulness, and continued commitment to making the Dolores River increasingly more naturally functioning, self-sustaining, and resilient.

Left: Jim Cagney ,on the left, with Governor Hickenlooper

We would like to thank Jim Cagney, BLM, for his many contributions to the DRRP. Retiring from the BLM this spring, Jim has provided us with leadership from which we will benefit for years to come.



2013 Contributing Funders:

Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Hendricks Charitable Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action, U.S. Department of Energy, University of Utah, Walton Family Foundation

To learn more about the DRRP and how to get involved, please visit
<http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/drrp/>
or contact Daniel Oppenheimer, Restoration Coordinator,
at doppenheimer@tamariskcoalition.org.