

Sowing Seeds For Restoration

Tamarisk Coalition Restoration Coordinator Daniel Oppenheimer and Ecologist Amanda Clements with the Uncompahgre Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management were joined with three West End community member volunteers to seed an area just beyond the Bedrock boat ramp along the Dolores River banks last Thursday, August 20th.

The area was previously treated by eradicating Russian Knapweed, various invasive plants and a lot of the Tamarisk trees.

Oppenheimer said that their intent was not to eradicate all of the Tamarisks there because some of the remaining trees will provide important shade for restoring native grasses and plants to the area.

Last Thursday, those previously treated areas were seeded with a combination of four native grasses - Sand Dropseed, Indian Ricegrass, Sandberg Bluegrass and Alkali Sacaton.

There is hope that winter moisture and monsoonal rain will be plentiful enough to encourage the seeds to germinate and take root.

The area seeded last week started just beyond the boat ramp picnic area where the road climbs to an overlook. The seeding started there and continued to the canyon wall point where it turns westward and encompassed roughly 20 acres.

There will be a great opportunity for volunteers in the first week of October with a Dolores River

Tamarisk Removal and Planting Project. The project will be Friday through Sunday, October 2-4 from 8 AM - 4 PM each day. Volunteers will camp in Bedrock and work during the day. Volunteers may also just come one day, or more, during the project.

In coordination with the Dolores River Restoration Partnership, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers will hold the three-day volunteer project along the Dolores River near Bedrock.

Volunteers will use loppers and hand saws to remove tamarisk in the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area. After removing tamarisk, volunteers will then plant native grasses and shrubs to replace and prevent re-encroachment of non-native, invasive plant species while enhancing habitat.

The work site is located a half-hour walk from the Bedrock boat ramp along the scenic Dolores River.

Volunteers can expect a fun-filled Friday-Sunday event of tamarisk removal and riparian planting/restoration in the beautiful Dolores River Canyon. Volunteers will camp in nearby Bedrock, CO and may register for one or several days of participation.

*Meals will be provided by talented volunteer cooks!

To Register go to www.wlrw.org or contact Morgan morgan@wlrw.org or (303) 543-1411 x 3# Volunteer for 1, 2, or all 3 days. 25 volunteers/ day are needed.



Last Thursday, three West End community members joined forces with the Tamarisk Coalition to seed an area of the Dolores River Watershed just beyond the Bedrock Boat Ramp. It was previously treated for the Tamarisk, Russian Knapweed and other invasive plants. Above, Jim Johnston of Nucla and BLM Ecologist Amanda Clements broadcast seed over a previously treated area. Right, Clements shows Thursday's volunteers how to properly broadcast the native grass seeds. Left to right, Clements, Troy Wallace, Anthony (did not get the last name) and Jim Johnston.



Nucla Discovers Glitch In Bulk Water

Cont. from Pg. 1

"My problem is - it went on for three months, so we lost a considerable amount of money," he said. "Something should have clicked that we had a new system and we should keep an eye on it. That was not happening. If it went for a month, I wouldn't have been quite as upset. But, it went for three months!"

"I think things are going to get better, we probably suffered a pretty good chunk of change out of that and that's not a good thing at all - it's pretty ugly actually. But, I bet you it's not going to happen again," said Nucla Mayor Dawna Morris.

The issue was brought to the attention by one user who asked why she was being charged so little. At first they thought it was a glitch solely on her account but then it was discovered to be system wide and that no other customers had come in to discuss being under-charged.

In other town news, a town citizen that lives on 5th Street approached the town board and asked them to clean out the culvert on his property. He had researched the issue and found that the responsibility lies on the town because they installed it years ago.

He said that silt has built up over the years and water backs up on the top and sides causing flooding.

The State Statute regarding the issue states that "people with water rights have a ditch and someone puts a culvert in the ditch, then it's the one who

installs the culvert's responsibility to clean the culvert and keep the water flowing."

"You have the right to yank that culvert out," he said.

The town agreed that it is their responsibility and an agreement was made that the town will clean the culvert out when they have the jetter service contractor out when they are in town cleaning pipes for the town.

It was pointed out that the statute regarding culverts only applies to those carrying irrigation water.

It was also pointed out that one citizen on 5th street pays for CC Ditch water rights but years ago the town buried her access to the water. It was stated that she should have the water available and if she ever approached the board requesting a remedy, that the town would act on it.

So far the town has come under budget on the valve project and Public Works Director Vince Dyer said that he would like to use the remaining money to work on the water line on 5th Street and tie in to the valve there. He would also get cold mix to patch the areas he worked on.

Dyer also reported that there were two water breaks last month that he repaired.

He also added that he is looking into paving Ivy and 6th Street where they had to repair the water line.

At the sewer treatment pond, a motor went out and Dyer found one in the shed and used it. He informed the board *Cont. on Pg. 5*

NEMS Mosaic Project Update...

By Naomi Marshall
August 25, 2015

The Naturita Elementary Middle School mosaic project is underway, and the installation will officially begin next week. Tools, volunteers, and donations are still needed. The following materials are needed:

- Margin trowels
- Tarps
- Buckets
- Sponges (BIG)
- Palette knives
- Butter knives
- Tile nippers
- Yogurt containers
- Knee pads
- Hoses
- Step ladder
- Old sheets

Businesses and individuals are being given the opportunity to purchase donor tiles, which will be labeled with their names and installed within the mosaic project. The deadline to purchase a donor tile is this Friday, August 28.