

# Paradox Students Learning By Hand

by Sarah Henry, Contributor

On Friday, October 30th the Paradox Valley High School class headed down to the Bedrock boat ramp along the banks of the Dolores River.

There, the students met Daniel Oppenheimer, who works for the Tamarisk Coalition, an organization based in Grand Junction that is dedicated to restoring riparian (river-side) habitat across the Arid West. The students learned about the important values that riparian areas provide for wildlife and people, as well as how tamarisk and other non-native, invasive plants can degrade wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and livestock forage.

Oppenheimer is the coordinator of the Dolores River Restoration Partnership, a public-private collaborative working along nearly 200 miles of the Dolores River and its tributaries to enhance the health and diversity of the riparian plant community.

In the morning, students hiked upstream from the boat ramp, where volunteers had recently planted more than 2,000 native shrubs and grasses in sites previously dominated by tamarisk and Russian knapweed. Students monitored these planting efforts to assess effectiveness of the planting effort and to provide the Dolores River Restoration Partnership with helpful information that will inform future plantings.

After lunch, students planted native species themselves, including native grasses such as Alkali sacaton and sand drop seed, as well as three-leaf sumac, a native shrub. After planting, the class went on a hike through the beautiful fall desert.



Fifth grader Jerrod Whren loves science class, especially when they study ecology.

Montrose County Presents



## Colts of the Week



First grader Lantry Galley said she loves her nice teacher which makes school really fun. She also relishes recess time when she gets to play outside.

# VETERANS DAY

★ ★ ★ NOVEMBER 11 ★ ★ ★

## HONORING ALL THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM

Thank you for your service, from the staff at the Forum Newspaper