

DRRP Science & Monitoring Subcommittee Update Nov 8, 2012



DRRP Monitoring Overview

Overarching Questions To Be Answered/ Information Needed

- 1 = How are we doing with meeting restoration-related Ecological Goals established by Partnership?
- 2 = Which restoration methods are working best throughout watershed?
- 3 = What are current management needs on a given site/how is each site doing in the short run?

DRRP Monitoring Overview

How Information is Being Obtained

- Watershed Wide Monitoring

- 1= How are we doing with meeting restoration-related Ecological Goals established by Partnership?
- 2 = What restoration methods are working best throughout watershed?

- Rapid or 'Project' Monitoring

- 3 = What are current management needs on a given site/how is each site doing in the short run? (inform Implementation Planning for following year)

Overview of Watershed-Wide Monitoring

- **Where:** At 40 sites located throughout the watershed
- **How:** Collect data within representative area at a given site
- **Specific Method:** Collect quantitative data along replicated transect lines; statistically rigorous so can do comparisons between sites
- **Data collected:** Type and quantity of different vegetation/groundcover present
- **Who:** Data collected by Colorado Watershed Assembly partnering with University of Denver

Overview of Rapid (or 'Project') Monitoring

- ◉ **Where:** Ideally, at all sites treated thus far
- ◉ **How:** Collect data across entire site
- ◉ **Specific Method:** Collect data by doing general survey throughout site; collecting qualitative and quantitative data; not statistically rigorous because don't need to compare between sites
- ◉ **Data collected:** Status of invasive species on site (what kind and how much), success of plantings from previous year, observations of wildlife presence/usage of site (plus Photo Point pics)
- ◉ **Who:** Data collected by BLM Field Offices, and Tamarisk Coalition crew

2012 Products of Monitoring Efforts

- **2012 DRRP Rapid Monitoring Report**
- 2012 DRRP Watershed-Wide Monitoring Report
- 2012 Pilot Project Monitoring Report
- **DRRP Plant Identification Training Workshop held for field monitoring crews**
- **DRRP Plant Identification Booklet**
- 2011 DRRP Watershed-Wide Monitoring Report
- 2010 DRRP Watershed-Wide Monitoring Report

Description of DRRP Plant Identification Guide

- Originated from Plant Identification Training Day for field monitoring crews on Dolores River, June 2012
- Conducted by Amanda Clements, Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field Office
- Plant species shown from sites along Dolores River between Bedrock Boat ramp and San Miguel confluence
- Booklet documents many plants discussed during training day, but not exhaustive
- Common name, scientific name, and nativity of plant (native or exotic) are provided
- In future could conduct a Plant Identification training for folks in Partnership if interest

Highlights of DRRP Plant Identification Guide

- Shows pictures of common plants throughout watershed such as coyote willow, 3-leaf sumac, New Mexico privet, basin big sagebrush



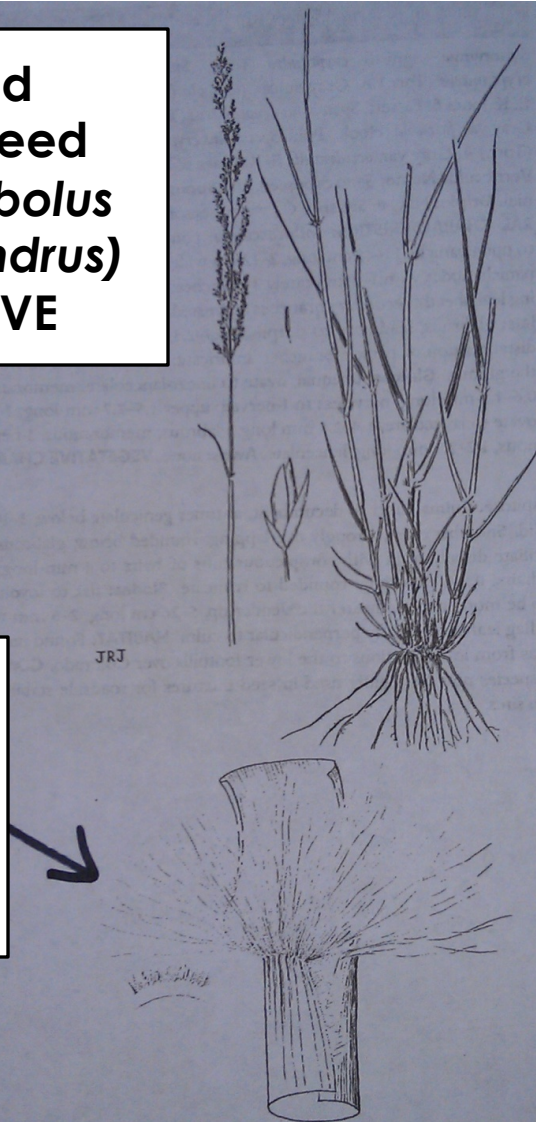
Highlights of DRRP Plant Identification Guide

- Shows how to tell differences between some of the harder plants to identify, like grasses



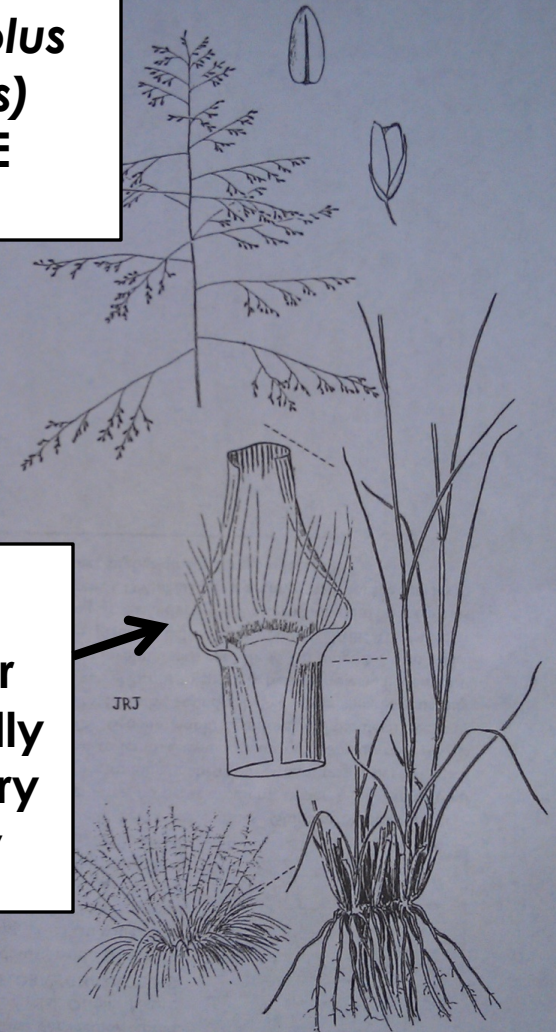
**sand
dropseed
(*Sporobolus
cryptandrus*)
NATIVE**

**Tip:
Collar
often
very
hairy**



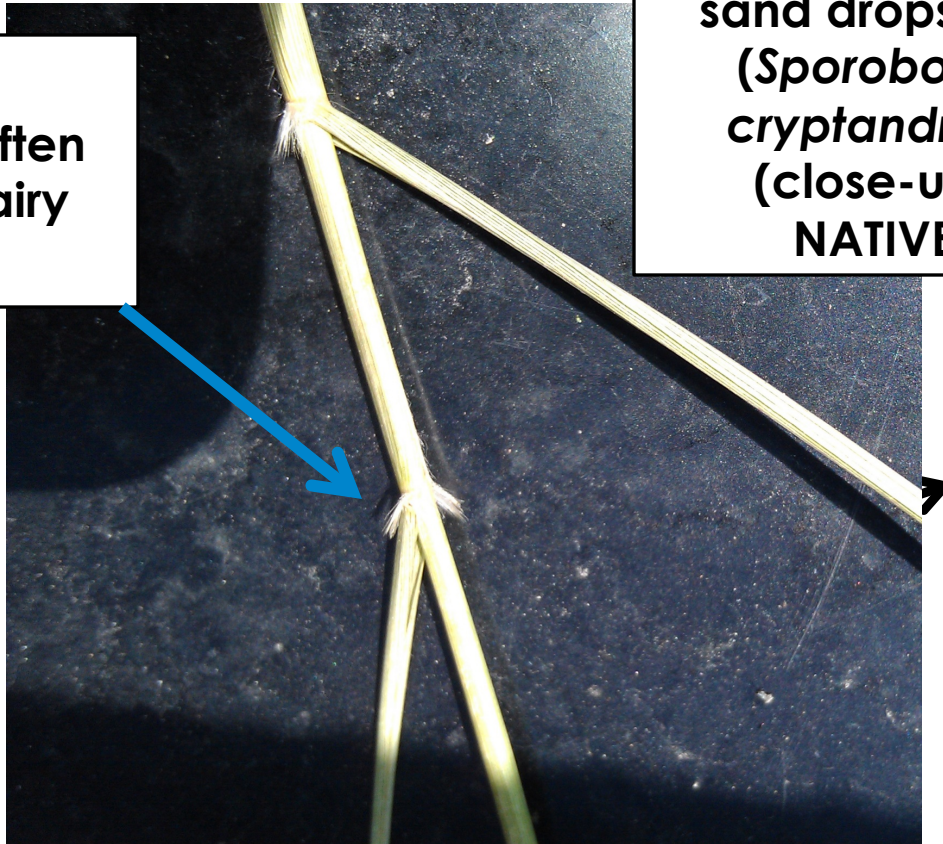
**alkali sacaton
(*Sporobolus
airoides*)
NATIVE**

**Tip:
Collar
typically
not very
hairy**



collar often
very hairy

sand dropseed
(*Sporobolus
cryptandrus*)
(close-up)
NATIVE



Description of DRRP 2012 Rapid Monitoring Report

- Survey of treated sites to assess management needs and track progress
- To inform managers of sites, and can inform Implementation Committee for planning activities for following year
- Not all treated sites included in report – only sites that BLM Field Offices asked to have monitored this year. Other BLM sites not included here being monitored by BLM staff
- Report shows good photographic examples of how we are progressing
- Encourage anyone with sites that were not part of Rapid Monitoring effort this year – including private landowners – to come talk to us about getting your site monitored next year

Highlights of DRRP 2012 Rapid Monitoring Report

- Typical findings on treated sites were presence of tamarisk resprouts and Russian knapweed, but native plant populations bouncing back also with woody invasive removal



Highlights of DRRP 2012 Rapid Monitoring Report

- Biocontrol beetle observed on many sites
- Drought appeared to set back planting efforts this year



Highlights of DRRP 2012 Rapid Monitoring Report

- Discovered small purple loosestrife infestation (List A Noxious Weed in Colorado) at one site



Highlights of DRRP 2012 Rapid Monitoring Report

- Abundant wildlife observations including signs or sightings of deer, elk, bear, rabbits, ducks, and raccoons



Questions, Thoughts, Ideas?

- Join the SMS if interested in getting more involved in monitoring efforts, or just want to learn more!
- Please contact us if have questions or would like to get monitoring started on your property
- Contact: Julie Knudson, jknudson@tamariskcoalition.org, 970-256-7400



DRRP Science & Monitoring Subcommittee – Looking Forward

Upcoming Products

- 2010 Watershed-Wide Monitoring Report
- 2011 Watershed-Wide Monitoring Report
- 2012 Watershed-Wide Monitoring Report
- 2012 'Managers Report' (reporting on-the-ground 'Lessons Learned' from private and public land managers) – may be created by Implementation Committee but important to SMS for protocols/report interp/planning
- Creation of master spreadsheet of all restoration activities conducted at all sites (currently info spread throughout field offices)



DRRP Science & Monitoring Subcommittee – Looking Forward

Upcoming Products (continued)

- Posting of all data and reports on an easily accessible website
- Revision of Rapid Monitoring Protocol to expand on quantitative data collection
- Revision of Watershed Wide Monitoring Protocol to better explain data analysis methods; add sections such as ‘Monitoring Lessons Learned’

Upcoming Activities

- Upcoming Science & Monitoring Subcommittee In-Person Meeting to discuss/interpret results from 2010-2012 reports, and to strategize for future (anyone is welcome to join!)
- 2013 Monitoring Efforts