



a non-profit alliance
working to restore riparian lands

Tamarisk Coalition

P.O. Box 1907 · Grand Junction, CO 81502

Tamarisk Coalition Quarterly Newsletter #1 July, 2002

This is the inaugural edition of what will be a quarterly newsletter that outlines the activities of the Tamarisk Coalition.

What's been happening? by Pete Larson, President

Much has happened in the last six months. The election of a Board and the decision to incorporate was taken as a decision by the Tamarisk Coalition to activate proposals that have been discussed since the inception of our organization. As a board we realized this could only be done with an Executive Director. This drought season has focused new interest in controlling tamarisk and we felt immediate and decisive action was necessary for this organization to take the leading roll for the upper Colorado River Drainage.

What do these events mean for the organization?

- We are now qualified to apply for and manage any grant available.
- We have a spokes person and are available to members, the public and other organizations through an office, P.O. Box, e-mail, phone and a fax number.
- There will be a library stocked with all topics related to tamarisk.
- We have a person that represents us, coordinates our efforts and activities and actively seeks funding.

What changes will be occurring?

- We will involve the corporate world in our effort.

- We will have increased coordination with other organizations and levels of government.
- We can put on regional workshops.
- There is greater academic involvement.
- We are looking at sponsoring research that documents the actual consumption of water by tamarisk.

We apologize for not getting information out to you sooner, but we found that the business of setting up a business takes much time and effort. From this point on, much better communication will occur. Some of the Board activities that have occurred in the past six months include:

- Board members elected in the fall of 2001 met in January 2002 and chose officers: Pete Larson (president), Tim Carlson (vice president) and John Heideman (secretary/treasurer). Other members of the board are Steve Anthony, Todd Archer, Adena Green, Elizabeth Harris, Willa Holgate, and Judith Sirota. Contact information for each is attached.
- In January 2002, the Board of Directors decided to actively pursue the formation of the Tamarisk Coalition as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. This will allow the Coalition to apply for and receive grants from state, federal, and private foundations. In the past, we have had to work through third parties (e.g., Colorado Riverfront Foundation and the Colorado Big Country Resource Conservation & Development) to go after these funds.
- In February, the Coalition filed Articles of Incorporation as a Colorado non-profit organization, then applied for IRS tax exempt status in April. In June, the IRS recognized the Coalition with official notification of status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Specific actions in support of this effort included the development of Bylaws, a draft Business Plan and Budget, a draft Management and Policies Manual, and a membership dues structure.
- Legal counsel is being provided by Susan Corlee and accounting expertise by Fid Braffett. Both are providing their services on a pro bono basis.
- Tim Carlson proposed to work as the Executive Director of the Coalition for up to six months at no cost to the Coalition until grant funds are available to support a salaried position. The Board accepted this proposal in April and elected Mallory Dimmitt to replace Tim as vice president on the Board. Funding is being sought for office expenses, and for three positions – executive director, education and project coordinator, and part-time clerical/bookkeeper.

- In June, Mesa State College began providing office space, phone, fax, and Internet service at no cost. Tim Carlson provided his computer.
- The Tamarisk Coalition's new mailing address is: P.O. Box 1907, Grand Junction, CO 81502. Phone: 248-1683. Fax: 248-1700. E-mail: tcarlson_tamarisk@hotmail.com and the office location is Office #5 at the Mesa State College building on the southeast corner of 12th and Elm Streets. Please stop by.
- The available funds for the operation of the Coalition activities at the beginning of the year were approximately \$10,000 for operations and \$4,000 for education. To date, approximately \$4,500 has been spent for office set up; travel to meetings, seminars, and to Washington D.C.; printing; and postage.
- In June, a small conference was hosted by the Tamarisk Coalition and Mesa State College to identify the political and institutional barriers to effective long-term management and funding strategies to control tamarisk. This meeting was attended by representatives of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, BLM, NPS, Club 20, and a state legislature. John Heideman applied for the grant funding for this conference through the Center for Invasive Plant Management at Montana State University. As part of this effort a color brochure on the Tamarisk Coalition also was funded.
- The Tamarisk Coalition logo was developed with in-kind graphic artist help from Pyramid Printing.
- Through grants developed by Willa Holgate, a pilot-scale tamarisk mapping project is underway this summer with principal support from the USFS Remote Sensing Application Center. Fires this summer have caused some delays in the flight schedules for the multi-spectral and natural color imaging activities. The objective of this work is to compare the cost, efficiency, and accuracy of a number of different tamarisk mapping approaches.
- The Coalition is working on a Colorado Department of Agriculture committee to suggest changes to the Colorado Noxious Weed Act.
- An overall strategy to develop a long-term management and funding program for tamarisk control and riparian restoration has been prepared. It focuses on a regional Four Corners states approach to funding, defining the problem, developing solutions, performing demonstrations, and implementing political solutions. This approach has been worked out based on input from funding sources, state and federal agencies, congressional staff, and state legislators.
- Partnering relationships are being formalized between the Coalition and Mesa State College, Colorado State University, New Mexico State University, Diné College, University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, Utah State

University, U.S. Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory, The Nature Conservancy, and the Institute for Participatory Planning and Management. Other critical collaborators include the U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, national and state Riparian Service Teams, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Four Corners states' State Weed Coordinators and their Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

- Principal funding sources have been identified as two programs at the federal level: at USDA, the *Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems*, known as the IFAFS grant program; and at Interior, the *Cooperative Conservation Initiative*, known as the CCI grant program. Some thirty different private foundation funding sources have also been identified. Grant applications for a number of these are in the works. Additionally, corporate sponsors are also being identified and will be solicited for support funding.
- The membership committee developed a dues structure that is intended to support a portion of our activities. A form is attached at the end of this newsletter for your use.
- Kacey Conway has been working for the BLM supporting fire fighting efforts and weed control, and finishing up administration of the 2001 Pulling Together Initiative grant that was received from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. She is also working on a new "Call For Projects" form to solicit projects for an application for the 2003 grant. A summary report on the 2001 work performed and the call for projects for 2003 will be coming to you in a separate e-mail or mailing. In the 2003 grant application, we especially want to include projects beyond Mesa County. If you have a project in mind, look for the call for projects notice and send in the application as directed.
- At the federal congressional level, a proposed bill sponsored by New Mexico Senator Pete Domenici and Colorado Senator Wayne Allard is being developed to sponsor research and demonstration of tamarisk control approaches in the Four Corners states and Texas. The Coalition was asked to take an active roll in developing the language for this bill. Another bill the "Harmful Nonnative Weed Control Act" is also being followed.
- An end of summer general meeting is being planned. With the current fire season and weed control activities going on it will likely be late September or October. A notice will go out to all.

Hope everyone is having a good summer despite the heat and lack of water.

Pete Larson

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Become a Tamarisk Coalition Member

Please check the appropriate category ...

_____ Individual @ \$50/year

_____ Senior @ \$35/year

_____ Student @ \$25/year

_____ Discount for five @ \$200/year
people signing up at one time for agencies and organizations

_____ Sustaining membership @ \$100/year
for companies

Total Enclosed: _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Make check payable to: Tamarisk Coalition
P.O. Box 1907
Grand Junction, CO 81502

Membership Benefits – Members are involved in developing long-term solutions to control tamarisk and restore riparian lands; and are provided a quarterly newsletter that includes information on active programs and opportunities for involvement.