



# Tamarisk Coalition Newsletter

January 2007

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## Next Issue

Our March Newsletter will focus on the future of the Tamarisk Coalition.

## 2007 Tamarisk Symposium

If you were unable to attend visit:

<http://www.cooptext.colostate.edu/TRA/Tamarisk2007Presentations.htm>

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's hard to believe that another year of wrangling riparian restoration issues is over and a new one is just beginning. We are so thankful for your support in 2007 and hope to sustain that interest in 2008! Your contributions have helped us provide education, technical assistance, and coordinating support for numerous community driven riparian land restoration projects.

This newsletter describes several such grassroots efforts that resulted in comprehensive watershed management plans spanning four major Colorado and Utah rivers. Also included are the Tamarisk Coalition's major accomplishments that you helped to support in 2007, a salute to our past employees and interns, and volunteer opportunities with Volunteers of Outdoor Colorado and the Boy Scouts of America. Happy reading!

## Watershed Initiatives

Two *first-in-the-nation* comprehensive watershed plans were completed in 2007 in western Colorado and southeastern Utah. These plans were built by grassroots citizen action groups committed to solving the tamarisk crisis in the Colorado, Dolores and Gunnison/Uncompahgre River watersheds.

State and federal agencies, local communities, private landowners, industry, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) cooperated to draft these plans. The Tamarisk Coalition staff assembled the plans.

### The Colorado Headwaters Invasives Partnership (CHIP)

In September of 2005 The Colorado River Water Conservation District and The Nature Conservancy initiated a partnership to develop a strategic restoration plan for the Colorado River's riparian areas impacted by non-native invasive trees, principally tamarisk and Russian olive. As a result, the Colorado Headwaters Invasives Partnership (CHIP) Plan was completed mid-2007.

The Tamarisk Coalition choreographed a seven-county grant application to the Colorado State Department of Local Affairs to complete the CHIP Plan and expand it to include sections for the Gunnison/Uncompahgre and Dolores Watersheds. These headwater initiatives were complemented by the Southeastern Utah Tamarisk Partnership (SEUTP) Plan, which plans for river restoration downstream on the Colorado River in Utah.



(CHIP Plan Cover Photo: Tamarisk Coalition)

## Meet the Staff

Tim working hard



John points out the San Juan watershed



Clark scouting tamarisk



Christy clicking away



Nate takes a break to smile for the camera



***CHIP's vision is an overall Colorado River watershed restored as a thriving and diverse riparian ecosystem containing minimal infestations of non-native invasive species.***

The CHIP planning area geographically encompasses the Colorado River main stem from the continental divide to the Colorado/Utah state line. The Gunnison/Uncompahgre and Dolores River Invasive Species Plans have been included in this document.

We are working with representatives in the Yampa and White Rivers to complete the planning process for a comprehensive riparian restoration approach for the entire Colorado River watershed on the Western Slope of Colorado.

## The Southeast Utah Tamarisk Partnership (SEUTP)

In March 2006 a similar partnership was formed to plan collaborative riparian restoration efforts in southeastern Utah's Colorado river watershed using the CHIP plan as a model.

The Southeast Utah Tamarisk Partnership (SEUTP) Plan is based in Utah's Grand and San Juan Counties. It focuses on riparian restoration activities for local lands. Their mission follows:



(SEUTP Plan Cover Photo: John Dohrenwend 2006)

***The Partnership is committed to restoring, protecting, and maintaining a healthy riparian ecosystem in our Colorado River watershed.***

The boundaries of the SEUTP planning area include: 1) the Colorado River watershed from the Utah/Colorado state line to the confluence of the Green River, 2) tributaries north of the San Juan River watershed and east of the Colorado River from the Green River to Lake Powell, and 3) the section of the Dolores River watershed located in Utah.

## CHIP & SEUTP

**Riparian restoration is the ultimate goal of these plans.** Tamarisk and Russian olive are not the only non-native, invasive species present in these watersheds and invasive species are not the only problem impacting these river systems. However, due to their aggressive and extensive growth patterns and high profile status, these are the keystone invasive woody species to control for successful riparian restoration. Lower growing invasive plants (e.g. Russian knapweed, white top, and purple loosestrife) are cursorily addressed in the plans.

Non-native, invasive control is only the first step in successful riparian restoration. Revegetation, monitoring and maintenance strategies are also built into the plans with an emphasis on the necessity to secure long-term funding (10 years recommended) to ensure meaningful restoration in perpetuity.

The expected results of tamarisk and Russian olive control projects coordinated

Elyse has left the Tamarisk Coalition to pursue other ambitions.

We'll Miss You Elyse!



## Meet the Mascots

Chewbacca



Ghoti



by the CHIP and SEUTP plans include restored aquatic, riparian, and floodplain ecosystems. The quantity and quality of these habitats, which support native and endangered fish and wildlife species, will be improved. Project areas would provide opportunities for environmental education, improved aesthetics, recreation, and enhanced flood flow management. The proposed restoration would also increase resilience to future stresses such as fire, drought, or other invasive plants. In short, the planned riparian restoration efforts will create a more self-sustaining ecosystem, provide the benefits of improved water resources, and reduce future riparian management costs.

The CHIP and SEUTP plans are collaborative documents created to assist in the development and implementation of future, objective-driven designs for the watersheds impacted by tamarisk and Russian olive. **The CHIP and SEUTP plans are not site-specific designs for restoration.** Rather, the plans function as a backbone for future riparian restoration work. They are also designed to complement each other as well as adjacent planning efforts in the Colorado River watershed, the San Juan River watershed in the four-corners area, and future efforts in the Yampa and White River watersheds.

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## The Tamarisk Coalition's 2007 Accomplishments

### Education:

1. Assisted in organizing and co-hosting the 2007 biennial Tamarisk Symposium. (Visit our website to view presentations.)
2. Provided numerous presentations to various organizations, universities, conferences, legislators and staff, and agencies.
3. Provided interviews for newspaper and journal articles, TV news, and radio programs.

### Technical Assistance:

1. Developed a comprehensive list of funding opportunities for tamarisk activities.
2. Worked with the State of Colorado to develop a matching grants program for riparian restoration.
3. Provided technical assistance to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration effort for the 50 mile reach of the Colorado River in the Grand Junction area.
4. Mapped tamarisk infestations in southeastern Utah's Colorado River watershed and major and minor tributaries of the Arkansas River.

### Coordinating Support:

1. Helped develop basin-wide tamarisk control plans for the Colorado, Gunnison, Dolores, and San Juan Rivers in CO, UT, AZ, and NM.
2. Continued the McInnis Canyons volunteer tamarisk control program in western Colorado.
3. Worked with the seven Colorado River basin states to develop a protocol to analyze and predict water savings expected from tamarisk and Russian olive control system wide.

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## Tamarisk Coalition Alumni

Two of our stellar employees have moved on to pursue their passions and further their careers. While it's a little bittersweet to see them off, it's always fun to hear about their exciting adventures in life. We thought we'd share the delight...

First and foremost we'd like to give an honorable mention to the only Tamarisk

Coalition ex-alum returning to the staff. Nate Ament was among the Coalition's first employees and helped develop the mapping protocol for the Tamarisk Coalition. Nate returned to work on detailed tamarisk management plans with grassroots groups in Pueblo and Trinidad, Colorado for the Arkansas and Purgatoire Rivers.

Elyse Cadogan worked for the Coalition in 2007 as our Volunteer Coordinator and an environmental biologist. She recently accepted a marriage proposal from her long time boyfriend and faithful Tamarisk Coalition volunteer worker Damien Borcovsky. They relocated to Denver and are planning an outdoor July wedding in Boulder.



Ryan Grube was our summer intern in 2007. He compiled an enormously helpful grant database, wrote and received several grants, and helped out with general planning and administration. Ryan is pursuing his nursing degree at Mesa State College.

Levi Jameson works for the Palisade Insectary and occasionally moonlights for the Tamarisk Coalition. This year he helped monitor the tamarisk leaf beetle population in Canyonlands National Park and perform detailed mapping work on the Arkansas and Purgatoire Rivers near Pueblo, CO.



Sally Phipps was our very first volunteer coordinator. She laid the ground work for our volunteer days while studying environmental science at Mesa State. Sally is now working as an environmental scientist for a Grand Junction firm.

Jessie Walsh (shown here with her son Elisha) worked for the Coalition as the volunteer coordinator in 2006. She founded the McInnis Canyon Volunteer Program and gained the support of many local businesses and individuals. She is currently pursuing her nursing degree at Mesa State College.



Mac Lewis was another of our founding fathers and worked alongside Nate to create and execute a protocol for mapping tamarisk infestations throughout Colorado. Mac is currently working studying renewable energy in Portland.

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## Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado Riparian Restoration Project: Call for Volunteers!!

James M. Robb Colorado River State Park, Island Acres Section  
Contact John Heideman at [jheideman@tamariskcoalition.org](mailto:jheideman@tamariskcoalition.org)

Mark your calendar for the weekend of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado is coordinating a riparian restoration project along a beautiful stretch of the Colorado River at Island Acres State Park. The project will remove invasive non-native tamarisk and Russian olive, the first step in riparian

restoration, and planting native vegetation in the area.

This collaborative venture is bringing together the Western Colorado Conservation Corps of Partners, Colorado State Parks, the Tamarisk Coalition and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado to restore one of the jewels of the James M. Robb Colorado River State Park just east of Grand Junction and Palisade. Volunteers will be organized into teams to cut tamarisk with pruners and hand saws, transport cut slash to chipper machines, and to plant revegetation materials.

Island Acres Park has fantastic camping and motor home camping facilities for volunteers with 40 full service hook-ups, 34 electrical hook-ups, and numerous tent sites with four conveniently located flush toilet restrooms and a hot shower facility.

We are going to work hard during the day and enjoy each other's company, share wonderful meals, enjoy live entertainment at night while participating in a rewarding weekend restoring the riparian areas of this beautiful park.

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## Order of the Arrow Tamarisk Removal Call for Volunteers!

The Boy Scouts of America's Order of the Arrow (OA) is coordinating five service projects across the U.S. in preparation for the Boy Scout centennial in 2009. Among these initiatives is the Manti-La Sal National Forest Tamarisk Removal Project scheduled from June 16 to June 20, 2008.

This collaborative venture is bringing together the Boy Scouts, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to remove tamarisk from Joes Valley Reservoir and Buckhorn Draw. Order of the Arrow members will cut tamarisk with pruners, hand saws and chain saws.

The Forest Service, BLM, surrounding county agencies, and volunteers will apply Garlon 4 to the cut stumps. – **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – Approximately sixty herbicide applicators will be needed as well as ten applicator refill workers. For accommodation information and to schedule volunteer participation hours contact John Healy at (435) 384-2372.

Volunteers must be present the night before they plan to work to be properly assigned for the next day. Good work boots, long pants, long sleeve shirts, and sun hats are required; spray applicators would be helpful; gloves and eye protection will be provided.

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## Funding the Tamarisk Coalition

**You're on our list for a good reason** – you understand that tamarisk, as an invasive, non-native plant, is impacting the health of the West's river systems. **You can help solve this problem** – To be part of the solution, become a member of the Tamarisk Coalition for as little as \$35 per year.

Due to the active involvement of our partnerships and membership contributions, the Tamarisk Coalition continues to grow in numbers and in influence. But, as a non-profit, the Tamarisk Coalition continuously strives to fund the restoration of western river ways. We now need your financial assistance to continue successfully providing educational opportunities,

technical assistance, and coordinating support.

Make the difference! Fill out the membership form available on our website ([www.tamariskcoalition.org](http://www.tamariskcoalition.org)) under the "Join Us" heading at the level that best fits your commitment. Your membership allows the **Tamarisk Coalition** *to facilitate tamarisk control efforts and to reestablish native vegetation along rivers and streams in the western USA.*

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Happy trails,

**Tim Carlson**

Tim Carlson, Executive Director

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