



# Tamarisk Coalition Newsletter

July 2008

## In This Issue

Our New Website!

Colorado River Basin  
Tamarisk Assessment

Volunteer & Education  
Coordinator Position

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board  
"Matching-Grant  
Program"

2009 Tamarisk & Russian  
Olive Research  
Conference

Watson Island  
Restoration

## Next Issue

Colorado River System  
Biocontrol Monitoring

## Contact Us

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## As promised A LOT is happening...

As you can see by the amount of information in this month's newsletter, we have been extremely busy! So once again, I apologize for its late launch. After many long days in the office, we are happy to say our website is finally functional (Thanks Clark and Nate)! We've wrapped up another successful volunteer season and have now moved on to biocontrol monitoring. Two extremely important initiatives we have been anxiously awaiting have come through. The Colorado River Basin Assessment and the CWCB's "Matching-Grant Program" have been approved. We have also been preparing for our upcoming volunteer season this fall and our research conference in February, 2009. Please read on for more information on what we've been up to!

As always, we are so thankful for your continued support!

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## [www.TamariskCoalition.Org](http://www.TamariskCoalition.Org) is Up and Running!

Our new website is live! We recognize the importance of an outstanding website to fulfill our mission of providing tamarisk and river health education. That is why we have spent the last couple of months working to update ours. Now you will find more in-depth and up-to-date information on tamarisk and Russian olive issues, and the steps being taken to restore the West's rivers. We hope that the new website will serve as a resource for private landowners, practitioners, land managers, researchers, legislators, and concerned citizens.

Although we have made vast improvements to our website, there are still significant gaps in knowledge. That is where you come in! There are two main areas in which we are lacking information. We would love to compile searchable, comprehensive databases of [tamarisk removal projects](#) and [research](#). If you are participating in tamarisk or Russian olive projects or research please visit our website and help us fill in these gaps.

PLEASE CONTACT US WITH ANY SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE WEBSITE! (ctate@tamariskcoalition.org).

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## Colorado River Basin Tamarisk Assessment

The Tamarisk Coalition will be conducting a thorough assessment of the Colorado River Basin over the next 8 months. In collaboration with the states of CO, WY, UT, NV, NM, AR and CA, we will be assessing the current condition of the Colorado River Basin and the present state-of-the-science of tamarisk and

## Meet the Staff

Tim Carlson



John Heideman



Clark Tate



Christy Duncan



Nate Ament



Russian olive control and revegetation, and identifying areas for future research.

Each of the seven states of the Colorado River Basin have formally agreed to support this initiative that will encompass the following tasks:

1. Evapotranspiration by Riparian Vegetation-synthesize information on ET rates by tamarisk and Russian olive and replacement vegetation.
2. Tamarisk and Russian Olive Control and Revegetation-evaluate the present state-of-the-science of control and revegetation.
3. Programmatic Issues-evaluate existing information and programmatic issues in need of clarification.
4. Demonstration Projects-identify sites for large-scale control and revegetation in both the Upper and the Lower Basins.

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## Volunteer & Education Coordinator Wanted!

The Tamarisk Coalition is in search of a friendly, versatile, and creative individual to become our Volunteer and Education Program Coordinator. If you or someone you think would be ideal for this position go to our [website](#) to view the job description.



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## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### “Matching-Grant Program”

In May, Governor Ritter approved the allocation of \$1,000,000 for the CWCB’s matching grant program. These funds are for tamarisk and Russian olive control, revegetation, and monitoring. Grants will be available for communities, conservation districts, non-profits, and other eligible entities through a competitive process. Grantees must provide a minimum non-state match of 1:1. A portion of the appropriated fund, not to exceed 10 percent, will be used for grant program administration, scientific research, and monitoring.

Criteria for grant applications are currently being developed. Upon demonstration of the grant program’s success, the CWCB intends to request additional funding for future years.

## Meet Our Summer Interns

Jessie Walsh



Ryan Grube



Sarah Lawrence



## Meet the Mascots

Chewbacca



Ghoti



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## 2009 Tamarisk and Russian Olive Research Conference

Save the date! February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting the Tamarisk and Russian Olive Research Conference in Reno, Nevada. The purpose of this conference is to bring together tamarisk and Russian olive researchers at a single venue for a comprehensive presentation of cutting-edge science. Leading experts will come together to share recent discoveries in the field with other scientists and western land managers so that future management efforts can be guided by their research. This conference will also promote dialogue between researchers and managers to identify future research needs for the development of effective policy and management decisions. Information on the conference can be found at [www.tamarisk.colostate.edu](http://www.tamarisk.colostate.edu).



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## Watson Island Restoration

Tucked behind the Botanical Gardens of Western Colorado, Watson Island is a 70-acre complex considered to be the Grand Valley's centerpiece for riparian restoration along the Colorado River. Owned by the City of Grand Junction, this braided stretch of the Colorado River hosts a meandering nature trail system and a number of fish, bird, and mammal species. The Watson Island complex has been identified by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as a high priority for restoration due to its extraordinary potential to benefit the Colorado River endangered fish recovery program.

We are pleased to announce that Chevron U.S.A., Inc. is supporting our mission and will be a key partner in initiating the Watson Island Restoration Project. Other partners include Colorado Riverfront Foundation & Commission, City of Grand Junction, Western Colorado Botanic Gardens, Audubon Society, and Mesa State College.

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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.

And, remarkably – **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 continue to need your financial assistance to successfully provide educational opportunities, technical assistance, and coordinating support.

So, 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 the West’s rivers and streams.***

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Happy trails,

**Tim Carlson**

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