



# Tamarisk Coalition

## 2012 Annual Report

**Advancing the restoration of riparian lands through  
collaboration, education, and technical assistance.**

[www.tamariskcoalition.org](http://www.tamariskcoalition.org)



## Vision

Healthy and self-sustaining riparian ecosystems throughout the American West resilient to invasive plant species and supported by enduring communities of stewards.



## 10 Years of Riparian Restoration in the American West

Tamarisk Coalition (TC) has been helping people manage invasive plant species and restore riparian vegetation since 1999. In this time, we have grown significantly and the scope of our work has evolved, as have the types of challenges facing the riparian restoration community. We were proud to celebrate our 10th anniversary (since incorporation as a nonprofit in 2002) with the completion of our first update to the TC strategic plan since our founding. Our plan lays the groundwork for the future of our organization and guides the work we do today.

In developing our strategic plan, we focused our 2012 projects and activities into three key strategies:

1. Act as an Information Clearinghouse: Develop and connect our partners with important resources, methods, and solutions necessary for restoring riparian lands.
2. Empower Practitioners: Support our partners by fostering communication, assisting with problem solving, and refining approaches to restore riparian areas.
3. Enhance Frameworks for Restoration: Improve opportunities and establish programs within governance, policy, economic, and information systems that will support and benefit our partners' ability to conduct riparian restoration.

Throughout 2012, we worked with partners across the West, especially in the nine western states that comprise three major river basins: the Colorado, Arkansas, and Rio Grande River Basins. Our accomplishments are enabling us to achieve our vision and help others to enhance the quality of life of Westerners through restoration of our rivers. We attribute our 2012 accomplishments to TC's rich history, passionate staff, dedicated supporters, and hard-working partners. It takes all of our collaborative efforts to advance the restoration of riparian lands and we are proud to work with and support such an effective and passionate community of people.

Stacy Kolegas Beaugh  
Executive Director

Susan Bellagamba  
President, Board of Directors



# Information Clearinghouse

In addition to our website, [www.tamariskcoalition.org](http://www.tamariskcoalition.org), which houses a variety of technical riparian restoration resources, TC connects our partners with up-to-date information and resources that will help them be successful in their work in two main ways: the Riparian Restoration Connection and the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle Monitoring Program.

## Riparian Restoration Connection

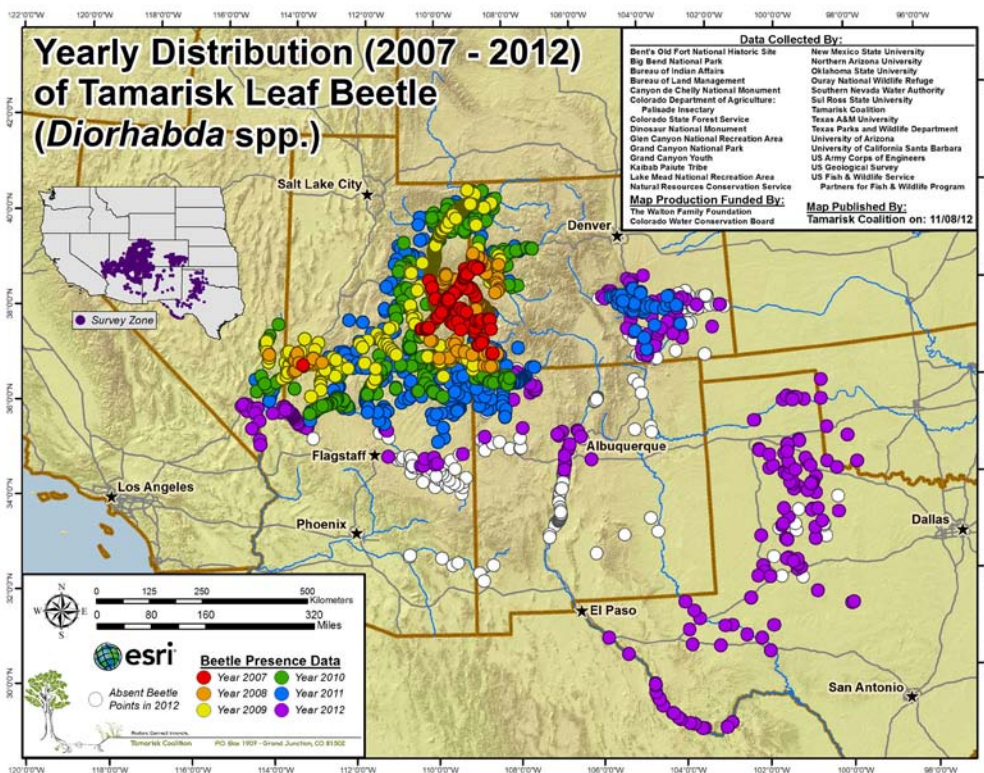
[www.riparianrestorationconnection.com](http://www.riparianrestorationconnection.com)

TC officially launched the Riparian Restoration Connection (RRC) website in January of 2012. This resource helps riparian restoration practitioners connect to appropriate training events and funding opportunities. In 2012 the site had an average of 20 new posts and 146 visits per month.



## Tamarisk Leaf Beetle Monitoring

Following a significant program evaluation completed in early 2012, TC implemented the sixth year of monitoring the distribution and extent of the tamarisk leaf beetle (*Diorhabda* spp.), a biological control agent used to manage tamarisk. TC prioritized where new data should be collected and worked with over 28 partners to collect beetle presence/absence information in eight states. Additionally, TC provided more resources for land managers to utilize in implementing more detailed beetle monitoring and restoration tools for responding to the beetle's impacts. In 2012, we conducted 12 outreach presentations in four states and nine cities to discuss the 2011 and 2012 monitoring results, reaching 449 people.



# Empowering Practitioners



## Native Plant Efforts

TC continues efforts started in 2010 to help our western Colorado partners find the best approach to developing native plants for use in riparian restoration projects. By garnering the technical expertise of many practitioners - including the Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center, the Los Lunas Plant Material Center, and various research institutions - we supported the establishment of nearly 4,000 cottonwood seedlings on private land in Mack, CO. These trees, sourced from the Dolores and Colorado Rivers, are currently available for pole harvesting. Additionally, TC is working with Wildland Scapes Nursery in Moab, UT, to grow ten different riparian shrub species in a variety of methods and sizes to produce approximately 3,300 plants for use in the Dolores River and Escalante River watersheds. We recently began a partnership with Colorado State Forest Service to grow additional riparian plant species for use within the state of Colorado.

## Riparian Grazing Workshop

In April, we co-hosted a two-day riparian area grazing workshop with the National Riparian Service Team in Gateway, CO, which taught 44 participants about grazing and riparian-wetland attributes and processes, sustainable grazing management tools, techniques, strategies, and monitoring treatment in both a classroom and field application. The success of this training has helped the Dolores River Restoration Partnership make positive connections with private landowners along the Dolores River and gain additional support for ongoing restoration efforts.



## Funding Resources

We strive to connect our partners to current funding opportunities and help them gain the tools, knowledge, and relationships to be successful in those pursuits. We have done this in a variety of ways, from populating the Riparian Restoration Connection with grant funding opportunities to hosting monthly webinars with relevant grant funders from around the West. In 2012, we hosted three webinars attended by 65 people: *Introduction to the Funding Webinar Series and Restoration Fundraising 101*, *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Programs*, and *Funding Opportunities for the Employment and Education of Youth and Underserved Populations*.

Through the empowerment of practitioners, TC strives to connect the riparian restoration community with skills, resources, and connections needed to effectively restore riparian areas. In 2012, our projects ranged from facilitating contract grow-outs of plant materials, garnering funding resources, coordinating training events, and hosting our annual conference.

## Annual Conference

We continued our long-standing partnership with the Colorado State University Extension to host our 10th annual conference February 15-17, 2012 in Grand Junction. The conference was formatted as a management symposium to connect land managers and other riparian practitioners with their peers, lessons learned, up-to-date scientific information, and other resources to bolster their restoration efforts. There were 35 presenters and 169 participants. The recipient of our First President's Award, given out at our symposia to recognize exceptional riparian land managers, was Chip Norton, Friends of the Verde River Greenway, whose inspirational leadership has helped the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition achieve much success.



## Revegetation Techniques Training

In June we co-hosted two, 1-day workshops in the Arkansas River Basin with Arkansas River Watershed Invasive Plant Partnership and the Colorado State Forest Service. 85 private and public land, conservation district and local government representatives attended the workshops in Pueblo/Avondale, CO and Granada, CO. One important success story following the workshops was the submission of three grant applications by private landowners to the Prowers County Tamarisk Control Fund. These applications, for restoration activities (planting and seeding), are the first received by Prowers County for revegetation activities; historically all applications have been solely for tamarisk removal.



# Empowering Practitioners through Partnerships

## Dolores River Restoration Partnership

In 2009, TC began working with the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (DRRP) to help write their Dolores River Riparian Action Plan. Since then, TC has partnered with The Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management, and Southwest Conservation Corps to take a lead coordination role in the partnership, which is comprised of over 140 private landowners, volunteers, and individuals representing public land management agencies, foundations, corporations, nonprofits, universities and others.

2012 saw a continuation of our role leading subcommittee and partnership meetings, coordinating implementation planning for the annual on-the-ground restoration activities on 974 acres of public and private lands, collaborating in a strategic fundraising effort to raise over \$1.2 million, managing vegetative monitoring efforts, and co-coordinating outreach, education and training events which engaged 208 people. TC has also been working hard with other DRRP participants to establish solid connections between the DRRP and a neighboring partnership, the Southeast Utah Riparian Partnership. These growing relationships and collaboration are leading to shared knowledge and resources that translate across both of their geographic areas.



## Northwest Colorado Riparian Restoration Partnership

TC has continued to lead the Northwest Colorado Riparian Restoration Partnership in their efforts to implement the Northwest Colorado Watershed Partnership Action Plan, which was written by TC in 2011. With TC's support the partnership boasted numerous accomplishments in 2012, including planning for eight demonstration projects on public and private lands, securing a \$40,000 grant to start one of the public land demonstration projects, conducting a legislative tour organized by the local conservation district, and refining the partnership's focus and plans for the future.

Another important component of our empowering practitioners strategy is our leadership and support to collaborative restoration partnerships. While our role in these partnerships can vary, our dedication to helping these groups be effective and successful does not waver. Our objective is to support local and community-based organizations that are best positioned to conduct, coordinate, and sustain riparian restoration efforts through capacity building, technical assistance, education, and information sharing.

## Desert Rivers Collaborative

TC has remained committed and rooted to Colorado's Western Slope since our founding. In the past, we have organized community volunteer efforts to remove invasive plants and reestablish native plants in the canyons of western Mesa County. In partnership with the city of Grand Junction and other community members, TC helped to plan and implement restoration work on two downtown sites, Watson Island and Las Colonias, areas that have been the focus of numerous clean-up and restoration efforts over the last several decades. Our 2012 accomplishments on the Watson Island project include treating approximately 7.5 acres of Russian knapweed and 15 acres of kochia with the assistance of Mesa County Workenders and private contractors. Our ongoing efforts to remove tamarisk and begin restoration efforts on Watson Island and Las Colonias have helped the city move forward with its plan to develop recreational and riverfront amenities at this site.

Since 2005, we have been engaged in a planning effort with the Army Corps of Engineers to design tamarisk and Russian olive control and native plant revegetation for 30 miles of the Colorado River. This effort was completed at the end of 2012. As the design project wound down, TC felt primed to initiate a collaborative effort to help land managers utilize the completed plans in the Grand Valley. In 2012, TC started a partnership, now called the Desert Rivers Collaborative, whose main focus is the restoration of native riparian vegetation along the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers. TC was able to secure \$250,000 in funding from the Colorado Water Conservation Board to implement five demonstration projects in 2013. These sites, approximately 70 acres, will be treated in addition to the ongoing work that was managed by TC at Watson Island and Las Colonias.



## Support to Other Restoration-Based Partnerships

TC works with many watershed-scale partnerships focused on riparian restoration to help them build capacity and provide technical assistance. These include the Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP), Middle Colorado Watershed Council (MCWC), Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition (VWRC), Arkansas River Woody Invasive Plant Partnership (ARKWIPP), Southeast Utah Riparian Partnership, and the Virgin River Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Collaborative (VR SWFLC). In the past year we helped ERWP with the development of both a revegetation plan for the watershed and long-term funding plans. We also provided funding to help develop native plant materials for use in revegetation. We supported MCWC and VWRC as they began implementation of their demonstration projects while they were initiating their partnership. We also hosted revegetation and restoration techniques training with ARKWIPP.

# Enhancing Frameworks for Restoration

## Large-Scale Planning and Research

We often participate in large-scale efforts to raise awareness of riparian areas and their importance. While there are many examples, three primary initiatives in this area took place in 2012. In the first, TC participated in the *US Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River Basin Supply and Demand Study* by submitting an Options Paper outlining the ongoing efforts of our many partners in the Colorado River Basin to restore and protect river systems.

Second, TC joined the Science Working Group of the Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative (SRLCC), a joint effort between US Bureau of Reclamation and US Fish and Wildlife Service that is building infrastructure to support applied research that can assist land managers in the face of climate change and other ecosystem stressors. Our efforts on the Working Group have resulted in riparian areas continuing to be a key strategic focus area for the SRLCC.

Finally, TC participated in the Western Weed Coordinating Committee meeting held in November 2012. This meeting provided us an opportunity to connect with key organizations and agencies involved with decision making and coordination of invasive plant species management in the West.

## Cross Watershed Collaboration

TC kicked-off an effort to help watersheds better connect with each other and share information across boundaries. This project, the Cross-Watershed Network, has quickly accelerated with the help of a dedicated group of individuals called the Core Team. This team, which has been able to expand the scope of the project from 34 to over 204 participants in a matter of months, is implementing an inaugural peer-to-peer information exchange workshop, and creating an interactive website for virtual communication.





Through all of the work we do, we strive to be ambassadors between on-the-ground, localized restoration activities and the regional, national or cross-sector frameworks and organizations that can influence policies that impact those activities. In 2012, activities that helped us achieve these objectives included spearheading a cross-watershed collaboration effort, pursuing sustainable funding opportunities, participating in large-scale planning and research efforts, and engaging in public and youth education opportunities.

## Sustainable Funding Pursuits

To further our pursuit of sustainable funding mechanisms that can support riparian restoration into the future, we have completed some important research which is reflected in a report, titled *Watershed Governance Structure & Funding Mechanisms*. This report is useful for all types of multi-jurisdictional watershed restoration collaboration efforts and reviews existing governance structures, pros and cons to each, and a list of the associated funding mechanisms that can either complement or challenge those structures.

We are engaged in efforts that could provide funding opportunities or important connections for our partners. These efforts include tracking the progress of the Department of Agriculture's Farm Bill Programs, which provide many conservation funding opportunities; staying abreast of Salinity Control Forum activities in the Colorado River Basin; and following the efforts of many partner organizations to establish payment for ecosystem services programs and other funding mechanisms. We are also building and maintaining important relationships with many granting organizations that support on-the-ground restoration work, including the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado State Forest Service, Xcel Energy Foundation, and others.



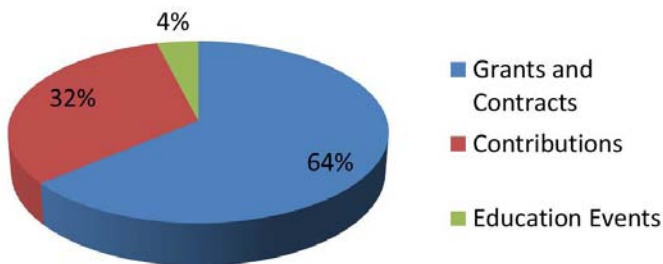
## Education and Awareness



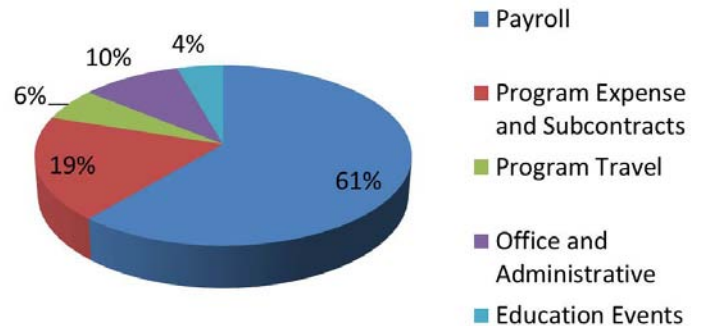
Finally, our commitment to supporting the management of riparian areas extends to providing educational opportunities to the communities we work in and the next generation of stewards. To name a few key events, we participated in diverse education events in western Colorado including co-organizing the Grand Junction Weed Rodeo as part of Colorado's statewide Pulling for Colorado initiative, at which 379 residents of Mesa County, CO learned about noxious weeds that impact their community; guest speaking at the Grand Valley Teaching Environmental Science Naturally (T.E.N.) Program; participating in a Project Water Education for Teachers training day; attending and presenting a booth at the Four Corners River Health Workshop; and participating in the Colorado Mesa University Water Center Conference.

# 2012 Financials

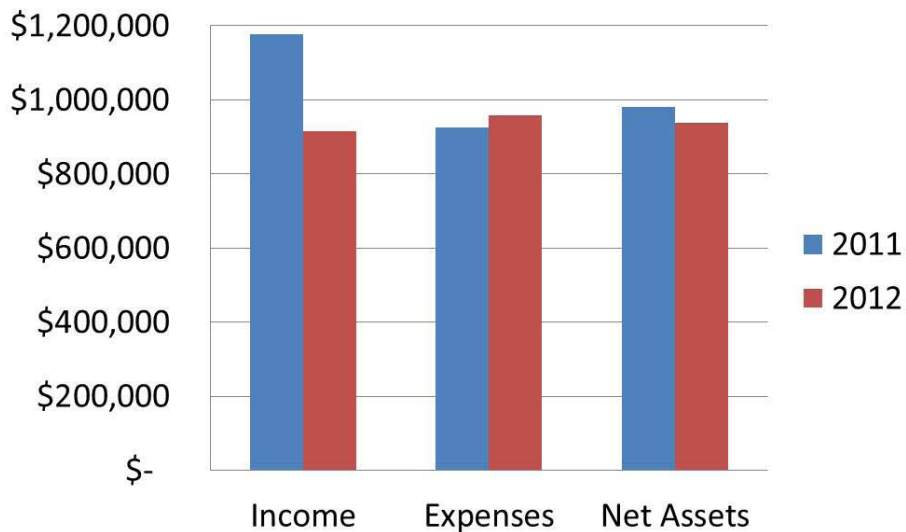
2012 Income \$915,702



2012 Expenses \$957,540\*



2012 and 2011 Budget Comparison



\* Note: Multi-year grants received in years prior to 2012 are not represented on the above income report. However, the expenses incurred in 2012 under those grants are reported above. As a result, the diagrams suggest that 2012 expenses exceed income for 2012 when in fact a portion of the 2011 positive net revenue was applied to 2012 expenses. TC maintained a healthy reserve at the end of 2012.

# 2012 Contributions and Acknowledgements

## Project Funders and Grantors

Army Corps of Engineers,  
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## Individuals and Member Organizations

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*In addition to all of our dedicated supporters listed, we would like to acknowledge our anonymous donors for their important contributions to our organization.*

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## Invest in the Tamarisk Coalition

Riparian areas have important ecologic, economic, recreational, and quality of life values in the arid West where rivers are a cornerstone of our livelihood. Investments help us continuously improve and maintain our commitment to providing resources that support restoration of our riparian areas.

### Ways to Give

#### **Make a Donation**

We accept all levels of donation.

\$50	Individual Member (min)
\$100	Organizational Member (min)
\$250	Cottonwood Club
\$500	Corporate Partner

#### **Become a Member**

Membership is the ideal way for organizations and agencies to support the work of TC. Receive discounted registration at our annual conference.

#### **Become a Corporate Partner**

Partnership is a great way for private companies to invest in our organization. Corporate partnership receives the same benefits as the Cottonwood Club.

**To donate:**  
[www.tamariskcoalition.org](http://www.tamariskcoalition.org)



Join the *Cottonwood Club* by investing \$250 or more to receive special recognition on our website, discounted conference registration, and invitations to special TC events!

*I support the TC because they have a positive impact on our rivers - for example enhancing the riparian lands adjacent to the Dolores River for wildlife and humans. I know that investing in conservation is the only way we can help keep our rivers beautiful, prosperous and healthy. I'm proud to join the TC in their work to restore the lands and waters we love and I urge you to do so too.*

*- Tamarisk Coalition Board Director*



Restore. Connect. Innovate.

**Tamarisk Coalition**

[www.tamariskcoalition.org](http://www.tamariskcoalition.org)

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