

# Background



The Desert Rivers Collaborative (DRC) was founded by RiversEdge West in 2012 to serve as a coordinated platform to conduct riparian restoration and address invasive species impacts along the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers and their major tributaries in Mesa and Delta Counties.

The DRC encourages and supports collaborative restoration efforts for the benefit of overall river health, improved local communities, and enhanced opportunities for recreation, education, and economic benefit.

Further, the DRC provides a platform for partners to better leverage resources including working together on funding opportunities, collaborating on restoration projects, and collectively reporting on funding secured under the common mission of the DRC. This approach allows for a landscape scale approach to fundraising and assessing ecological conditions.

***The mission of the DRC is to protect, restore, and maintain native river corridor habitat in Mesa and Delta Counties through the development of community partnerships.***

## Partners

- \* Non-profit organizations
- \* Municipalities
- \* Counties
- \* State agencies and institutions
- \* Federal Agencies
- \* Private landowners

## Goals

-  Ecological
-  Economic
-  Social
-  Management

## Acres Treated Between 2014-2019

- \* 728 acres of initial tamarisk removed
- \* 696 acres of tamarisk re-sprouts treated
- \* 238 acres of revegetation conducted
- \* 1,348 acres of secondary weeds treated

## Why Restore?

- \* Improve habitat for birds, fish and wildlife
- \* Foster community pride in rivers and improve river access and aesthetics
- \* Restore natural riverine processes in areas where existing infrastructure will not be impacted



For more information on how to get involved or to get on the mailing list, **contact:**

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## Common Invasive Species



Tamarisk is a common invasive riparian woody species classified as a List B weed in Colorado. Roots can grow up to 40 ft. underground, and outcompete native species, degrade riparian habitat and impede access to the river.



Russian olive, a List B weed, is found along riparian areas and outcompetes native vegetation. Russian olive can grow in large thickets and are challenging to control once established.



Russian knapweed is a List B weed in Colorado; it is notorious for colonizing riparian areas and outcompeting native grasses and forbs. It can take many years to control.