

Desert Rivers Collaborative

Fall 2025 Meeting Notes
October 29, 2025 10:00-12:00

Attendees

REW: Sara, Rusty, Erin, Christa, Melissa, Nicole, Cara

Partners/Other Organizations: Jeff Pieper (CSU), Lisa Boyko (Colorado Canyons Association), Bailey Goldberg (WCCC), Eric Los (CPW), Ross Mittelman (Mesa County), Trent Prall (City of GJ), Rob Davis (City of GJ), Melissa Werkmeister (BOR), Derek Lovoi (CPW), Meghan Dutcher (WSOA), Hannah Holm (American Rivers), David Varner (CWLT), Sean Lopez (City of Fruita), Nick Durant (Citizen), John Rizza (Two Rivers Wildfire Coalition), Troy Ward (Palisade), Adria Surovy (NWF), Doug Paul (BLM), Erin Kowalski (BLM), Joel Sholtes (CMU & Wash Water)

Agenda & Key Notes

Introductions / Background

Updates: MOU signed in 2024, 24 acres treated, 195 acres monitored, 148 wattles installed.

DRC/REW Updates

-Grand Valley River Corridor Initiative: working on master planning

-Private Lands: NRCS projects, Wetland Creation with DU, Future projects – 29 Road & Big Salt Wash

-Stewardship: 11 events with 153 volunteers valued at \$10,247.94

Group Discussion

DRC Restoration Plan – last updated in 2015. Is it time for a refresh?

Discussion Points:

-Incorporate stewardship, collaborative documentation, and condition goals

-Matrix chart and appendices updated

- Current Implementation plan: 5,000 sites identified, few hundred accessible

-Priorities evolve and link to fuels and weeds where possible

-NEPA / BLM Field Office

-Use contractors; start with community input Fuels and restoration goals aligned; collaboration enhances outcomes

Data & Tools

-Dashboards in development (John)

-Rapid Assessment Protocol and standardized data collection

-ArcGIS Online and Survey123

-Track progress and monitoring results

Monitoring and Geodatabase Thoughts

Monitoring Methods	Supplemental Data	Mapping/Geodatabase
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rapid monitoring protocol is too general<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Include more plant species (native and non-native)○ Specific locations for plant species and invasive infestations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beaver presence• Restoration work completed<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Treatment methods• Biocontrol methods/beetle presence• Past fires + extents• Human activity in area• Native species<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Natural regeneration○ Planting success/failure• Planned development• Change over time• Height of water table/ runoff amounts• Incorporate aerial photos (city/county)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interactive map<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Who is doing what/where?○ Networking○ Funders/Partners• Increase accessibility• More user friendly• Accessible across platforms other than ArcGIS• Reduce duplicate data

Collaborative Opportunities- *will be emailed out to the group*

Action Items

-Send out PowerPoint & notes

-Will be reaching out to federal partners when they return

-Follow up conversations on restoration plan, monitoring, and geodatabase