



Desert Rivers Collaborative

Fall 2025 Meeting

October 29, 2025

10:00-12:00



# DRC Background



- Formed 2012
- Colorado and Gunnison Rivers
- Mesa and Delta counties
- Ecological, Social, Economic, and Management Goals



# DRC Background



- MOU
  - Signed in 2024
  - 20 organizations
- Mutual Benefits
  - Prioritize sites for invasive removal/re-vegetation
  - Long term maintenance/monitoring
  - Identify funding needs/help secure funding
  - Share resources and information



# DRC Updates



- 24 Acres Treated
  - City of Fruita, BLM
- 195 Acres Monitored
  - With BLM
- 148 wood wattles installed
  - Gunnison River watershed above Paonia



GRAND VALLEY  
RIVER CORRIDOR INITIATIVE

## Vision

The communities of the Grand Valley are committed to a data-driven approach to steward a resilient, vibrant, and healthy river corridor that supports agriculture, habitat and wildlife, recreation, economic growth, and sustainable development benefiting today's and future generations.





# GVRCI

GRAND VALLEY  
RIVER CORRIDOR INITIATIVE



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The Grand Valley Fluvial Hazard Zone Map

## Floodplain Management

[Build Responsibly](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Flood Risk](#)

[Flood Safety](#)

[Insure Your Property](#)

[Natural Floodplains Functions](#)

[The Grand Valley Fluvial Hazard Zone Map](#)

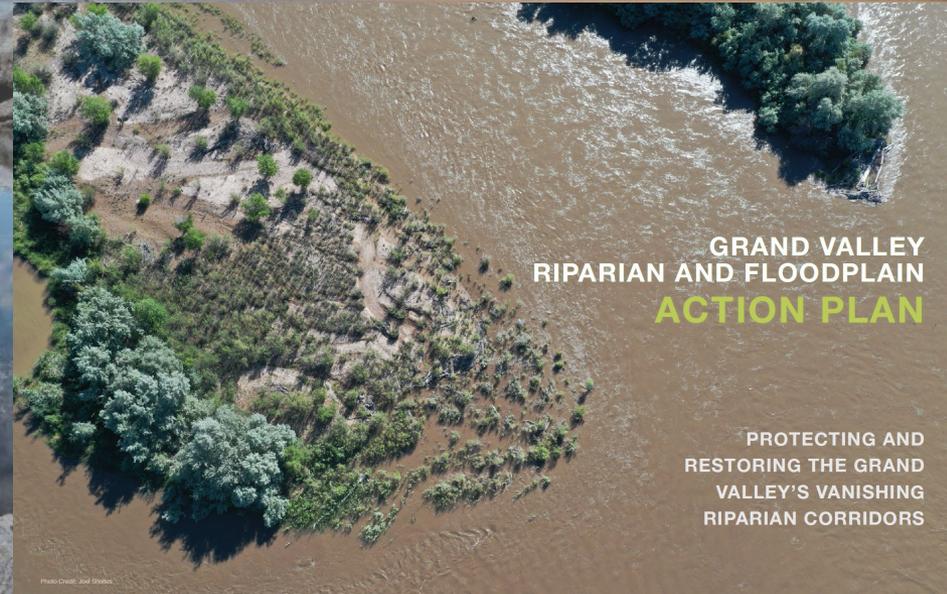
## The Grand Valley Fluvial Hazard Zone Map

### Fluvial Hazard Zones (FHZs)

FHZs show areas that a stream may:

- Currently occupy
- Have occupied recently
- Influence through erosion and sediment transport

The Grand Valley FHZ has been mapped for most of the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers in Mesa County as part of the [Colorado Water Conservation Board's Fluvial Hazard Zone Program](#) of .



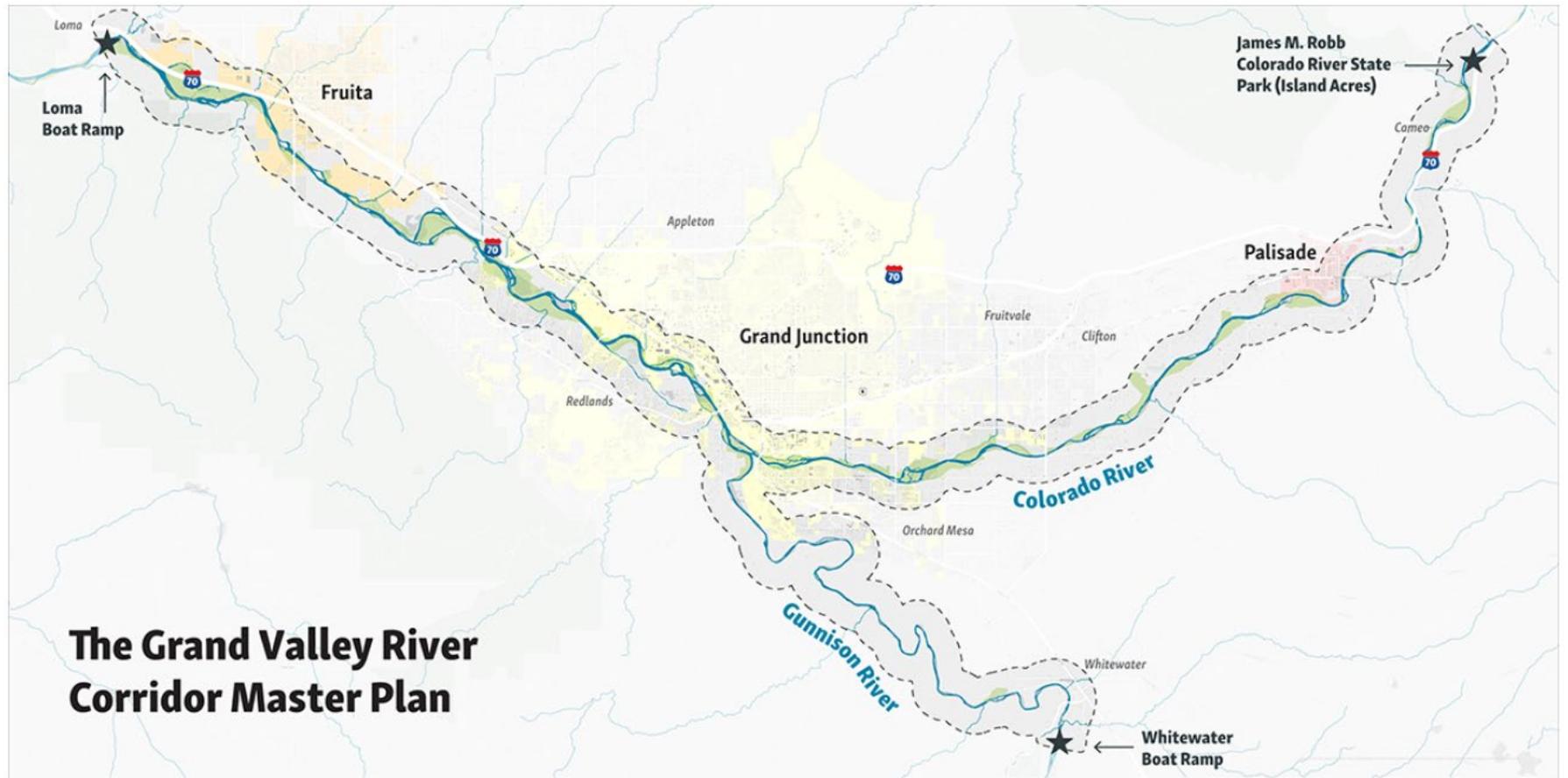
## GRAND VALLEY RIPARIAN AND FLOODPLAIN ACTION PLAN

PROTECTING AND  
RESTORING THE GRAND  
VALLEY'S VANISHING  
RIPARIAN CORRIDORS

Photo Credit: Joel Stobbs

# GVRCI

GRAND VALLEY  
RIVER CORRIDOR INITIATIVE



## The Grand Valley River Corridor Master Plan



# NRCS Private Lands Project

Delta, CO – Gunnison River



Before:





## Delta, CO – Gunnison River



After:





## Delta, CO – Gunnison River





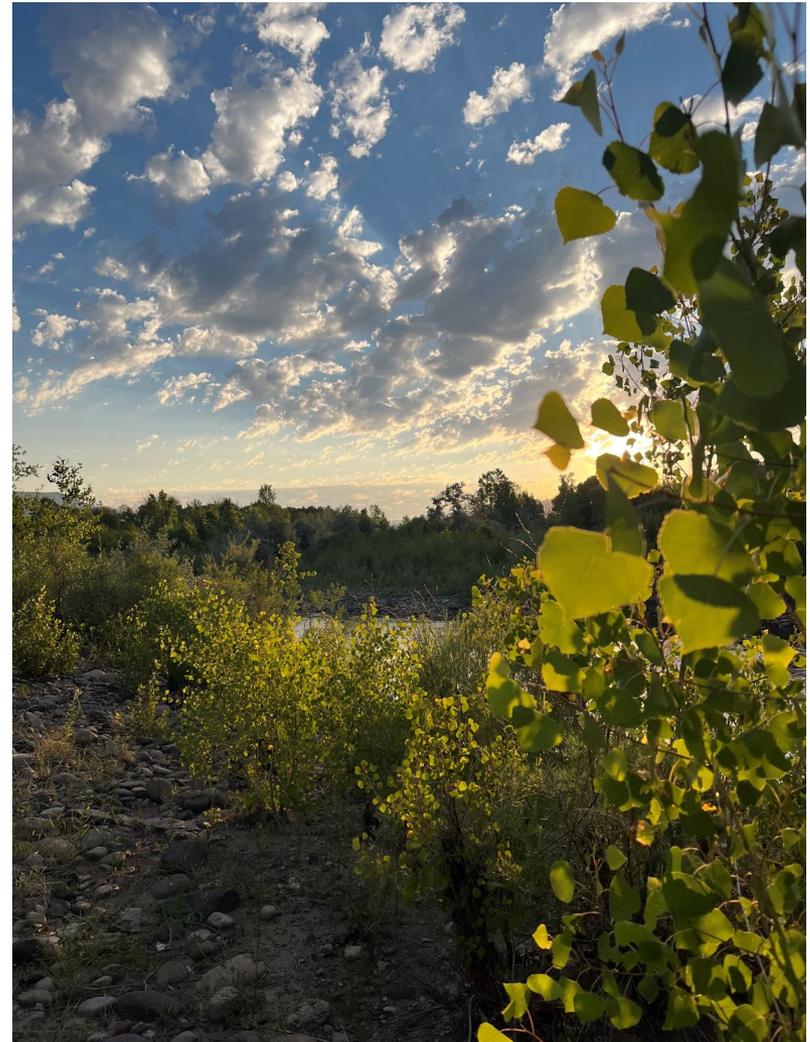
# Habitat Replacement - Private Lands

## Uncompahgre River





# NRCS / CPW Wetlands Private Lands North Fork of the Gunnison River





# Wetland Project



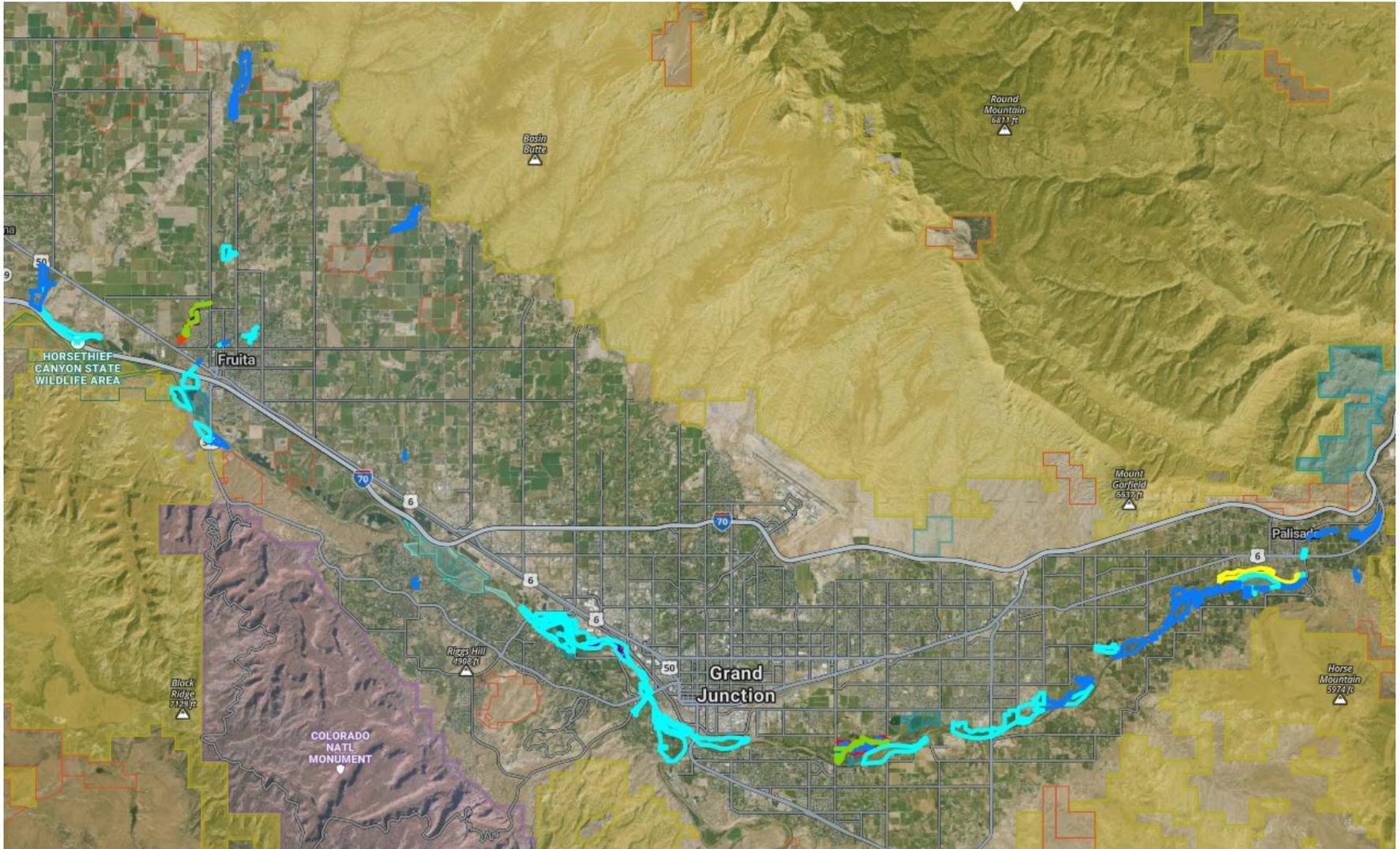
2021-2022  
Grant Application & Approval  
Construction Phase

2023-present  
Completion & in-use





# Private Lands – Grand Valley





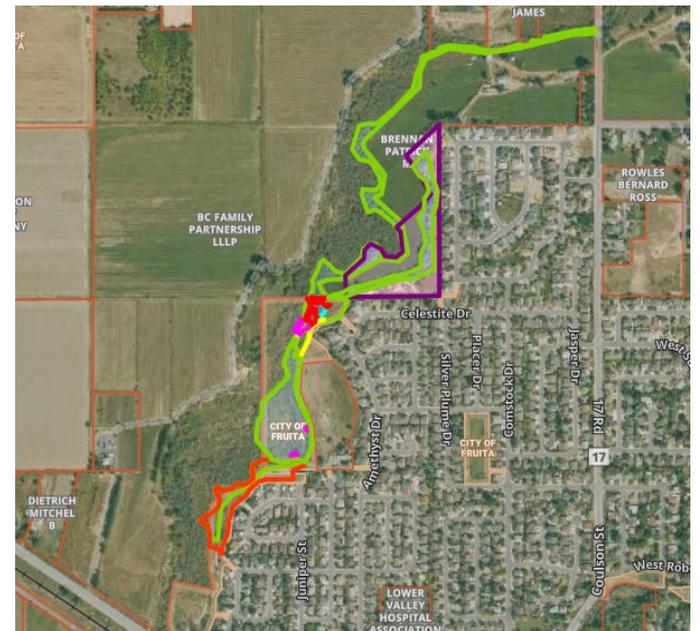
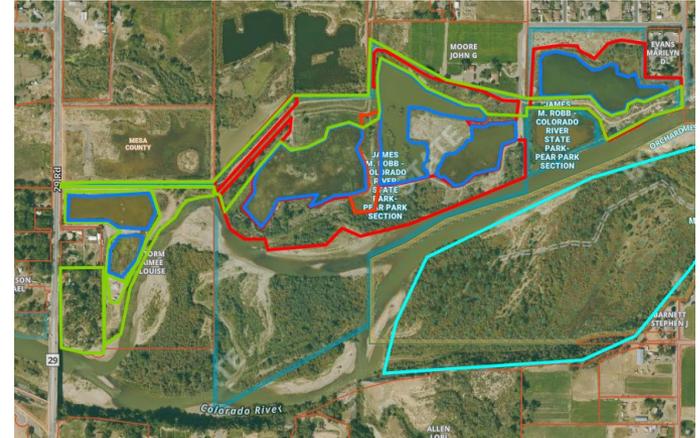
# Private Lands – Grand Valley

- Landowners: 26
  - Riparian acres: 617.21-acres
- Goals:
  - Collaborate with partners to pursue larger-scale funding opportunities for GV private lands
  - Connect with more neighbors to fill in gaps
  - Additionally prioritize revegetation efforts and long-term monitoring
    - NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) funding
    - Workshops/education for landowners on monitoring



# PL – Partner Planning & Updates

- Current priority project sites:
  - 29 Rd project area with GVRCI
  - Big Salt Wash area - PL & City of Fruita





# PL – Partner Planning & Updates

- Online resources for landowners – quick reads
  - Invasive weeds management - MCNWPM
  - Revegetation planning - CSU Extension
- NRCS programs applications & contracts
- Wetlands creation/enhancements - DU & CPW
- MCD Noxious Weeds cost-share program
- NRCS RCPP support - CWLT
- Wildfire mitigation planning - TRWC
- West Salt Wash landowner outreach with BLM
- Continue hosting private lands workshops



# 2025 Volunteer Stewardship





# 2025 Volunteer Stewardship

## Partners

Bureau of Reclamation

City of Fruita

City of Grand Junction

Colorado Parks and Wildlife



Sponsored by: Chevron CO, CPW Partners in the Outdoors, CWA Healthy Rivers Fund, Xcel Energy Foundation, West Slope Outdoor Volunteers



# 2025 Volunteer Stewardship



Volunteer Events	11
Volunteers	153
Volunteer Hours	306
In-Kind Amount	\$10,247.94
Plants	611
Acres	75



# 2025 Volunteer Stewardship

Our River Stewardship Program:

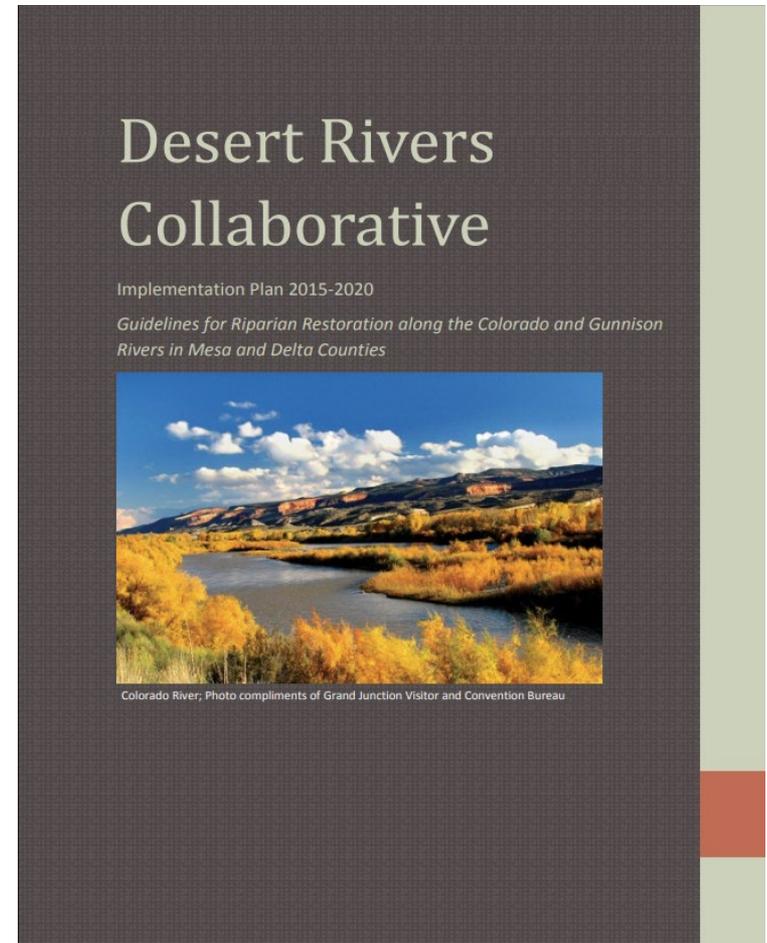
- maintains restoration sites into the future
- engages the local community
- serves as a hands-on educational opportunity to answer questions and share knowledge with curious participants





# Restoration Plan

- Last updated in 2015
- 5-year plan (Through 2020)
- Guiding document
  - Priority sites
  - Methods
  - Goals





# Monitoring Program



- Monitoring last completed in 2023
  - 2021, 2018
- Multi-jurisdictional
- Completed every 2-3 years



# Monitoring Program

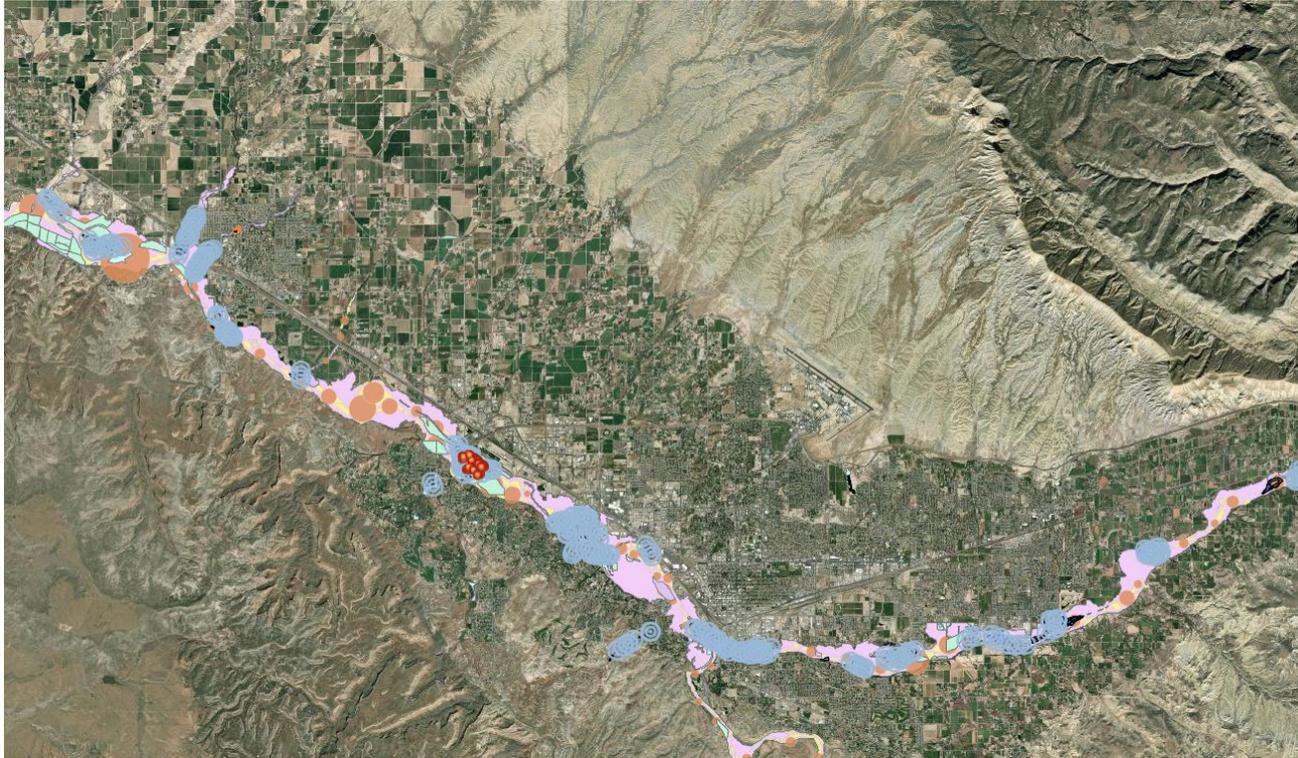
- Rapid Monitoring Protocol
  - Invasive Species Inventory
  - Passive Revegetation Recruitment
  - Woody Invasive Resprout
- Ocular estimates of vegetation cover
  - Invasive/Native

## DRC Rapid Assessment

DRC\_Polygon\_ID  
Relative\_Cover\_Native  
Native\_Species\_1  
Native\_Species\_2  
Invasive\_Species\_1  
Relative\_Cover\_Invasive1  
Invasive\_Species\_2  
Relative\_Cover\_Invasive2  
Invasive\_Species\_3  
Relative\_Cover\_Invasive3  
Invasive\_Species\_4  
Relative\_Cover\_Invasive4  
Evidence\_Natural\_Recruitment  
Absolute\_Veg\_Cover  
Year  
Acreage  
Owner  
Beetle  
Weevil  
TRO\_Resprout\_Notes  
Wildlife  
Logistics  
Cottonwood\_Gallery  
Active Revegetation



# Geodatabase



- Interactive map for data sharing
- Past treatment areas/ monitoring
  - Information about the treatment
- Likely hosted through ArcGIS Online



- Is there other data that would be useful, if collected?
- if monitoring happened how would you like to review that info?
  - An interactive map?
- What would be most useful for you in an interactive map or other system for sharing monitoring/treatment information?



# Action Items



- Send out powerpoint and notes
- Will be reaching out to federal partners
- Restoration Plan, Monitoring, Geodatabase



## **DRC Memorandum of Understanding:**

[https://www.riversedgewest.org/sites/default/files/DRC\\_MOU\\_2024\\_Final.pdf](https://www.riversedgewest.org/sites/default/files/DRC_MOU_2024_Final.pdf)

## **DRC Restoration Plan:**

[https://riversedgewest.org/sites/default/files/files/2015\\_06\\_03\\_DRC\\_Plan\\_Final\\_V1.pdf](https://riversedgewest.org/sites/default/files/files/2015_06_03_DRC_Plan_Final_V1.pdf)