

Dolores River Restoration Partnership

Core Team “Advance”
March 2nd and 3rd, Durango

**Present: Peter Muller, Stacy Kolegas, Clark Tate, Rusty Lloyd, Tim Carlson, Mike Wight, Chris Nessel
and Marsha Porter-Norton**

ACTION PLAN

Core Team

- 1) Members: (BLM Rep(s), TNC, TC, Youth Corps Rep (Mike W.), Tim, Marsha
- 2) Key Role: Facilitate and coordinate all aspects of implementation; link with Key Partners as needed around projects; is Advisory to the overall DRRP and recommends directions and asks for input and eventual agreement/affirmation by DRRP; collaboratively leads; does not make decisions for others
- 3) BLM representation (Peter will begin talks w/BLM on Which BLM personnel could be on the Core Team?)
- 4) Discuss and articulate Core Team’s roles and membership on 3/29; ensure vetting and buy-in; need to ask how Partners wish to be involved in the Partnership; (MP-N to develop some type of graphic)
- 5) Meet quarterly; In between calls as necessary
- 6) Team is “nimble” and can respond to implementation issues as necessary (making sure Partnership is involved when necessary in decision making)
- 7) Will make progress on better mapping (Peter/TNC1 will do projects map)
- 8) Core Team meets with BLM on 3/29 in a breakout

Communication

- 1) Monthly e-newsletter to go out (MPN)
- 2) Committee Chairs write up minutes from meeting; MPN will distribute
- 3) Logo (TC draft)
- 4) Web site – MPN will research (need log-in section)

Committees

- 1) Continue Education/Outreach, Monitoring and Funding; Science is no longer a Committee
- 2) Keep lists updated
- 3) Each committee needs to fill in details around annual schedule, goals, work plan (Mike, Stacy and Clark)

Funding

- 1) Committee continues to work on 2012 Plan
- 2) Need to make sure projects and implementation plans are done in a timely fashion so as to plan for grant cycles
- 3) Keep on it
- 4) Need to communicate opportunities to Partners
- 5) Conservation Award? Does the DRRP apply for it or not (due in April)?

Working w/Landowners

- 1) Great progress being made with NRCS
- 2) Small number of landowners in the corridor; individualized plans for reaching them
- 3) Peter and Mike working on an agreement – vet with Core Team and hand out on 3/29 and ask for input; will get draft out by 3/11
- 4) Note: Tim needs to ensure monitoring is part of public and private contracts and agreements (Peter will ask Lori A./BLM about this)
- 5) Escalante can be a model (packet)
- 6) Contracts will depend on who is doing what on the properties (funders and programs)
- 7) Issue: Can we secure permission for monitoring via the contracts? Peter will talk to Lori about this.

Outreach

- 1) Mike will develop idea list; discuss with DRRP on 3/29; need objectives for education with methods in relation to capacity (biggest bang for the buck concept); think through audiences and how to reach them
- 2) Committee needs to become active

Grazing

- 1) Grazing can be positive and complimentary to restoration efforts when best practices are used. Benefit both the producers' interests and the Partnerships' by these restoration activities.
- 2) Forum will be held; discuss on 3/29
- 3) Engage BLM staff
- 4) Answer scientific questions where necessary
- 5) Ad Hoc Committee working
- 6) Need a plan

Secondary Weeds

- 1) Koshia speaker in the fall
- 2) Deal with this in implementation plans for 2013 and 2014

MOU

- 1) Target is to get everyone to sign on before or on 3/29, completed most likely by May

Monitoring

- 1) Use common words
- 2) Determine how to frame this topic for 3/29
- 3) Plan needs to be finalized and in place for this year's season
- 4) Mechanism to track progress
- 5) Science and monitoring are two separate concepts
- 6) See monitoring section notes

Bio Control

- 1) Need a monitoring protocol

Accountability

- 1) Marsha helps track on things
- 2) Core Team has a shared responsibility with the Partners
- 3) Need to build a spreadsheet that reflects work plan action steps that we can use to track accountability at every DRRP meeting and Core Team meeting
- 4) Get Committee list updated
- 5) Create form to use to keep everyone accountable (MP-N) at Core Team meetings (work plan)

COMMITTEES' PRIORITIES AND ROLES

Funding

- 2012 Plan of action
- Revise schedule so plans are done with enough time to pursue funding
- Get a structure; set up consistent meeting time
- Communication is important
- Communicate grant opportunities for projects (ones that are not pursued by DRRP)
- Produce minutes and get to Marsha for distribution
- Write funding proposals for implementation plans
- Work with BLM around funding issues

Monitoring

- Get a structure; set up consistent meeting time
- Produce minutes and get to Marsha for distribution
- Ensure monitoring goals are defined and plan is in place; communicate results; get the structural pieces in place
- Adaptive Management

Outreach

- Need to establish clear audiences, goals, objectives, and methods – and methods for each
- Build awareness of the DRRP for support at all levels: funders and landowners participation, etc. Answer: What is riparian restoration, why is it done and what is the DRRP doing?
- Recruit members
- Get the committee vitalized and active
- Be strategic – better to do 3 communication tasks well than a bunch of things in a scattered fashion
- Web site (MP-N will help with this)
- Get a structure; set up consistent meeting time
- Produce minutes and get to Marsha for distribution

Science Committee

- Group recommends that it is not necessary
- Deal with “science” issues through existing structure and decide an action step(s) and tools and resources for issues raised such as speakers, literature search, hiring contractors, etc. – science issues raised by DRRP and Core Team
- Immediate: Do a grazing forum working with the BLMs and do a speaker on Koshia
- Keep science on Core Team’s agenda

GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Leadership/Governance

Core Team is made up of TNC, TC, Conservation Corps (as represented by Mike), BLM and the WFF.

The NC, TNC and the BLM are leading a collaborative restoration effort on the Lower Dolores River. Key partners that are involved playing key roles:

- Counties
- Conservation Corps
- Funders including Private Foundations
- NRCS (National Resource Conservation Service)
- Other Governments (e.g. States, Division of Wildlife, etc.)
- Other Non-Governmental Organizations
- Private landowners (voluntarily participating)

VARIOUS ROLES OF THE ENTIRE PARTNERSHIP (SPECIFIC)

- Leaders
- Funding recipients (get the work done)
- Partner to implement or work on targeted issues (e.g., NRCS with landowners) (some are involved by issue; some are involved by geographic stretch)
- Funders
- Researchers (e.g., DU)
- Monitoring personnel and experts
- Participants
- Day-to-day implementers
- Consultants
- Landowners
- Experts in a specific field (e.g., in BLM offices and other partners)
- Communicators

ROLES OF KEY ORGANIZATIONS/PEOPLE

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- For long-term sustainability of the DRRP, we need to work with them in an even greater Partnership role
- Add to Core Team
- Involved in monitoring, funding, grazing, “on the ground” work, science, planning, leading
- District specific-also interested in watershed as a whole; various levels of readiness re: projects
- BLM managers and Core Team = breakout at 3/29 DRRP meeting

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

- Assist with planning, monitoring and grazing
- Primary role is Implementation:
 - Coordination between landowners, NRCS, BLM, funding = alignment related to projects on the ground; help facilitate getting the work done
 -

Tamarisk Coalition (TC)

- Planning
- Head monitoring efforts
- Head funding efforts (with others helping)
- Lead on Volunteer Program
- Support for implementation
- Site specific
- Outreach
- Partnership development
- Details
- Interface with BLM
- Help increase Peter's capacity; support to TNC
- Creating scope
- Information sharing
- "Get it done!"
- No boundaries; lots of flexibility

Conservation Corps (3 of them with Mike Wight representing them on the Core Team)

- Chair outreach
- Transfer of knowledge
- Get on-the-ground work done via crews
- Collaborating with Partnership on seeking funding for getting the work done; coordination across the Corps
- Work force
- Reach the social goals
- Connect with partners across the watershed (and in other watersheds)

Walton Family Foundation

- Support initiatives (with other funders too)
- Interested in the whole watershed
- Interact at a high level to help make things happen (e.g., with the USDA or DOI)
- Strategic support (e.g., hiring Marsha, Chris, and other helpers)
- Take needs to the Board
- Represent interests of WFF
- Technical assistance
- Engagement on the Core Team (Tim Carlson), possibly this role phases out
- Overall guidance to DRRP
- Focusing on issues, not problems

Marsha Porter-Norton

- Track on big picture (reminders)
- Assist with the Core Team
- Facilitation of the larger meetings of the DRRP and Committees where necessary
- Draw people out
- E-newsletter
- Facilitate Core Team meeting
- Not involved in details of implementation tasks/project "on the ground:
- Set up meetings
- Clerical support (via Kathy Sherer)
- Checking in on accountability;

- Create work plan template that we track on at Core Team meetings

FUNCTIONS OF THE DRRP AND LEADS

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| • Planning | TNC and TC with BLM |
| • Getting work done | TNC and Conservation Corps, BLM |
| • Science | Core Team identifies issues and develops strategies |
| • Funding | TC leads with TNC and CCs |
| • BLM | TNC and TC primary interface |
| • Key partners re: work | TNC |
| • Volunteers Program | TC |
| • Grazing | TNC and TC with BLM |
| • Outreach and Education | Conservation Corps with DRRP |
| • Monitoring | TC |
| • Facilitation | Marsha P-N |
| • Interface with WFF | Tim C |

OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES

Monitoring Discussion:

There are four levels:

- Site-specific for Adaptive Management
 - Anna will provide a document that lays out the choices
 - Selection of one method will be made (by Ad Hoc Team working on monitoring) and recommended on 3/29 to the DRRP
 - Requires BLM input
- Current 40 sites
 - Gives a picture of the entire watershed
 - Anna will continue monitoring at these sites
 - The 40 sites can be extrapolated to the watershed
- Scientific Research
 - Separate this from monitoring
 - Anyone can do, but DRRP needs to focus on monitoring
 - Anna's (and others?) work will continue (her work is about informing public land managers of the best monitoring protocols to use)
- Bio Control
 - Need a monitoring protocol, use or create an adaptation of TC Bio Control Monitoring Protocols

NRCS

- Peter is taking the lead
- There are 12 landowners in the corridor; matching their interests with local NRCS staff/offices and programs

Volunteer Program

- TC leads – pilot; needs a long term strategy and point organization
- Need a manager (perhaps AmeriCorps, if it continues)
- Idea is to link with many partners based on volunteer opportunities
- Big undertaking, lots of staff time (outreach, volunteer management, tracking hours, etc.)
- Action item: Do a scouting trip to find areas where volunteers could work; incorporate BLM volunteer programs and support. Question: Is it ok to work in areas not identified in DR-RAP?

Social Goals

- Results communicated on 3/29
- Be transparent about results, results may vary, evolution of asking the right questions.
- Impacts: Are they visually evident or scientifically significant? Do at the end of the day

Cost Calculator (not a DRRP project, done by Chris M. as per WFF request)

- Decision to not have on 3/29 agenda)
- Ask Chris to produce a handout
- This applies to core implementers more than larger partnership

Collaborative Conservation Award

- Still need to discuss
- TC will be applying for another project they work on
- Funding committee needs to discuss this

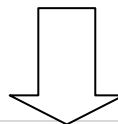
Agenda for 3/29 (not in sequential order)

- Core Team break-out with BLM
- Talk about outputs from the Core Team; affirm structure of the Core Team
- Get MOU signed, if possible
- Make sure everyone has access to DR-RAP
- Affirm implementation plans (Peter and Clark will do a summary sheet)
- Mike presents on social goals evaluation and also on Outreach Committee ideas
- Get excitement going for work TOGETHER
- Announce strategy on grazing (forum)
- Landowner agreements (handout)
- Volunteer program model presented

Handouts for 3/29

- Agenda
- Chart (one pager) of implementation “picture”
- Map (TNC)
- Landowner agreement
- Cost calculator project handout (from Chris M.)
- Core Team model (MP-N)

CALENDAR



Calendar (Committees need to fill items in after they meet) (from one year of the Core Team “Advance”)

<p>March 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Team “Advance” session in Durango • DRRP meeting 3/29 • Landowner Agreements done (draft 3/11) • Implementation Plans done for 3/29 (DRRP affirm) • MOU – signed • Collaboration Conservation Award (where to go with this?) • Logo drafted • CC evaluation on social goals summed up • First e-newsletter goes out • Field season
<p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring Plan ready to go • E-newsletter goes out • Field season
<p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach meeting held • Grazing forum • E-newsletter goes out • Field season (mid May)
<p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web site established • E-newsletter goes out
<p>July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Team meeting (late July) • E-newsletter goes out
<p>August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-newsletter goes out
<p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed strategy done for fall; Moab weed workshop • E-newsletter goes out • Field season
<p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation Plans for 2013 and 2014 done; address monitoring and maintenance issues beyond 5-year project period • Core Team meets to plan November DRRP meeting • E-newsletter goes out • Field season
<p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRRP meeting • 2012 funding line-up (either secured or pending) • Yearly progress report • E-newsletter goes out
<p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-newsletter goes out • Plan calendar for 2012; Core Team meetings; etc.
<p>January 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-newsletter goes out
<p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-newsletter goes out