RECAP OF ANNUAL DRRP MEETING:

On November 16, 2016, DRRP hosted its annual meeting at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, CO. During this meeting, partners reviewed accomplishments and discussed the future needs for the partnership’s three priorities: initiating new restoration projects, maintaining existing restoration sites, and promoting long-term, community stewardship. In case you missed it:

♦ Nearly all action items highlighted in the DRRP Communications Plan for 2016 were completed; key outcomes include development of new marketing materials, cultivating relationships with new private donors, and sharing lessons learned with restoration practitioners across the West.

♦ This year’s Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) Strike Team completed site monitoring and hundreds of acres of restoration work in Montrose, San Miguel, and Dolores Counties.

♦ For next year, the DRRP has an estimated program need of $650,000. Of this need, more than $370,000 has already been secured and $280,000 is pending in grant proposals. Partners will be applying for several more grants for 2017 needs.

♦ Between 2018—2020, the partnership needs to secure $1.07 million. Contact Kristen (Kjespersen@tamariskcoalition.org) if you would like to help the DRRP Funding Subcommittee develop and implement fundraising strategies.

♦ A new DRRP Stewardship Subcommittee has engaged more than a dozen new partners, drafted goals, and is developing a Stewardship Plan towards achieving the following draft vision: “a shared passion and commitment that sustains long-term, local restoration of the Dolores River riparian corridor.”

♦ During spring bird monitoring, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies detected 2,260 individual birds representing 96 species.

♦ This was another busy year for project implementation; the forthcoming annual report will summarize the different restoration treatments completed towards DRRP’s ecological goals.
WINTER PROJECT WORK:

Restoration project work continues through late fall and early winter, as the weather permits.

- Ival & Ed Young, Inc. continues to mechanically remove tamarisk near the Montrose-Mesa County Line. Using two different machines, the contractors are removing the entire tamarisk trees (including the root mass) and then piling tamarisk slash into burn piles. Later this winter, BLM will burn the slash piles and broadcast native grass seed on the exposed soil.

- BackCountry Vegetation Management, LLC is continuing to treat tamarisk re-sprouts closer to the town of Gateway.

- Grand County Noxious Weed Department staff recently completed treatment of tamarisk re-sprouts and Russian knapweed at Roberts Bottom.

- The Western Colorado Conservation Corps Strike Team members, Kyle and Louis, continue to remove tamarisk with a cut-stump method.

- Winter is time for planning; as project implementation wraps up, members of the DRRP Implementation Subcommittee are busy refining plans for 2017 and 2018. Planning includes reviewing rapid monitoring reports completed by the SCC Strike Team, reflecting on lessons learned in the field, and working with partners to share and build on these lessons.

- Questions about project work completed, plans for the future, and/or upcoming events? Contact: Daniel Oppenheimer at 970-256–7400 or doppenheimer@tamariskcoalition.org.
TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF

As the work slows down, if only for a moment, this is the time of year when we look up, reflect, and plan for the future. As we do so, there are a few folks that are transitioning on to new endeavors to whom we would like to express our gratitude.

Thanks to Amanda Clements, John “JT” Toolen, Barb Sharrow, and Beth Ransel from the Bureau of Land Management; Jake Deslauriers from Canyon Country Youth Corps; Jenna Whetzel from the Four Corners School of Outdoor Education; and Art Goodtimes from San Miguel County for your years of support!

Based on trust and good working relationships, this partnership would not be what it is today without your efforts—many thanks and best of luck to you.

LOOKING AHEAD

Mark your calendars for the following events:

♦ **January 24th**: the DRRP Implementation Subcommittee will hold its annual meeting to share lessons learned and discuss how to improve collaborative restoration work in the future

♦ **January 25th**: the DRRP Stewardship Subcommittee will meet at the Four Corners School of Outdoor Education’s Discovery Center in Monticello, UT, to develop a stewardship plan

♦ **February 7—9th**: Tamarisk Coalition will host its annual restoration conference; this year’s event will be held in Fort Collins. To learn more, visit: http://tamariskcoalition.org/events/2017-tc-conference

The DRRP is a public-private collaborative, working towards a vision of a healthier, more naturally functioning Dolores River. To learn more about the DRRP, please visit our new website location: drrpartnership.org
STAY WARM AND HOPE Y’ALL HAVE A FUN & SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!