

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIVE ACTION STEPS**  
**Arkansas River Watershed Invasive Plants Plan**  
**And**  
**Purgatoire River Watershed Strategic Plan**  
**Tuesday May 4, 2010**  
**MEETING NOTES**

**Present:** Emily Lockard, CSU Extension, Shelly Simmons, Colo. State Forest Service, and Jean Van Pelt, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District  
By Phone: Natalie Edmundson, CSU Extension

**Absent:** Loran Brinkmeier, Nat'l Wild Turkey Foundation; Henry Schnabel, Prowers County Commissioner; Levi Montoya, NRCS Las Animas County; Jonnalea Tortorelli, Spanish Peaks/Purgatoire River Conservation District; Patty Knupp, NRCS/DOW/RMBO; Deborah Lester, CSU Extension SE Area; Toby Johnson, Rancher; Laura Quattrini, Rocky Mtn. Bird Observatory; Chris Yuan-Farrell, Colorado Open Lands; Cheryl Wagner, Colorado Open Lands; Adam Heberlie, NPS Bent's Old Fort NHS; Jeris Danielson, Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District; Matt Moorhead, The Nature Conservancy; Nikki Schwerfeger, Hamilton County KS Commissioner; Steve Wooten, Landowner; Fran Pannebaker, NPS Bent's Old Fort NHS; Brad Fowler, Unity Multimedia; Chris Caris, DoD/USFWS; Van Truan, USACE; Steve Miller, CWCB; and John Heideman

**Step 1 Develop Ways to Work with Landowners.**

- The Team discussed how to develop a communication system that informs county weed managers and other stakeholders/project groups of all projects being conducted in their vicinity.
  - Discussion included linking the [www.arkwipp.org](http://www.arkwipp.org) website to websites of other projects.
    - Jean will investigate the number of hits the ARKWIPP site has received and where visitors are going
  - Discussion continued on the need to have a contact person for each area/county that could provide project info back to the group for posting on the website
    - Emily will contact the Conservation Districts she is familiar with and see if there is any interest
  - Discussion was held on the need for a watershed coordinator to oversee the implementation of the plans
    - Important to get in contact with all Conservation District's in the watershed to let them know about us and keep a line of communication open.
      - Shelly will send Jean an email contact list for the Conservation Districts and Jean will add them to the ARKWIPP email list

- Not all have email addresses
    - Shelly will contact Darlene Jensen, Colorado Association of Conservation District
  - The Team reviewed and discussed what updates need to be taken for the resources for landowners on the [www.arkwipp.org](http://www.arkwipp.org) website
    - Jean agreed to take the lead, but first must check if funding is left to do the modifications
      - Mapping pages – Is there a way to make the numbers/letter easier to read
      - Link the suggested control and restoration measures on the Management Strategies pages to the Problem Solutions pages.
        - Example: “cut-stump method” linked to the “cut-stump method” on the mechanical control pages.
      - Change the Home Page to include information (teasers) about current projects and benefits of control and restoration.
      - Jean will send out an email to the arkwipp email list, asking for “success stories” on projects to be posted on the website
      - Update the Research page, new info on the USGS website
      - Determine a way to illustrate where past and current projects are on the ARKWPP map for quick reference
        - Include a link to detailed info on each project
      - The Team reviewed contact list of agencies that would provide on-site assistance and decided to add the Conservation Districts that serves each particular area
        - Natalie will provide an updated list of County Weed Managers to Jean
  - Determine time-line to accomplish Step 1.
    - Jean will check with the web designers about the timeline & budget
    - Approximately 6 mos.

## **Step 2 Develop and Provide Education, Outreach and Volunteerism Programs**

- Determine how to develop fact sheets on tamarisk ecology, biological, control, herbicide usage and safety, etc.
  - Emily will contact CSU Extension to determine interest in developing CSU Fact Sheet (s)
- Determine effective methods for media relations and education on the tamarisk subject.
  - Shelly will develop an educational demonstration tour for the media
    - Will ask Mary Miller with NRCS to assist with PR
    - Bent County Projects could be a possible location, Shelly will contact Cindy Schleining
    - Could break up the tours into 3 groups – Purgatoire watershed, upper and lower Arkansas watershed areas
- Determine where education/outreach efforts shall focus
  - Watershed meetings, Conservation District meetings, educational workshops, etc.

- Emily will develop a workshop presentation for landowners
  - Held annually
  - Develop the workshop so it can be shared with and presented by other County CSU Extension offices
  - Include the Conservation Districts/landowners
  - Discussion was held on we could hold this concurrently with the Media demo tour
- Emily and Shelly will contact others who agreed to work on this step
  - Patty Knupp, Deb Lester, Natalie Edmundson, & Fran Pannebaker
- Jean agreed to continue to coordinate the annual Arkansas Basin Workshop
- Determine time-line to accomplish Step 2.
  - Timeframe for landowner/media workshop/tour could be the last week in July or the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in Aug.
  - Arkansas Basin Workshop held at the end of March annually

### **Step 3 Determine Research Needs**

- Determine how to establish a collaborative partnership with educational institutions
- Identify specific research needs for the area.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> step is to identify what research is currently being conducted
    - Jean will contact:
      - CSU – Cameron Douglass, Dr. Nissen, Dr. Norton
    - Shelly will contact:
      - Dr. Sher and Dr Bean
  - Discussion on defining and prioritizing the needs
    - 1) Upland/Mesic tamarisk water use
      - Possibly partner with KS on studies they have done
      - Jean will talk to Perry Cabot, CSU Extension and CSU-Pueblo
    - 2) BMP Guide for Arkansas Watershed
      - Much like the CO River Guide
        - Shelly will talk to Dr. Sher
      - KS could be a partner
      - Jean will talk to the Tamarisk Coalition about how partners were secured for the CO guide
    - 3) Wildlife response to control and restoration projects
      - Possible funders Rocky Mtn. Bird Observatory, DOW & USFW
    - 4) Site specific restoration practices
    - 5) Evapotranspiration rates of tamarisk canopies
- Determine time-line to accomplish Step 3.
  - Contacts made by next meeting
  - Timeline is dependent on funding

### **Step 4 Determine and Develop Long-Term Funding Mechanisms**

- Determine ways to continue to support and leverage existing projects to gain additional funding resources
  - Jean will check with the Tamarisk Coalition on progress of reappropriation of the 2004 Salt Cedar Demo Act
    - Important to get Sec'y of Interior Ken Salazar on board
  - Shelly will check with Matt Moorhead on the progress of the Invasive Species Bill proposed by Sen. Harry Reid and Michael Bennet
  - Jean will check with Matt on progress toward working with the USACE on a feasibility study for the Arkansas and Purgatoire watersheds
    - At least suggest the USACE work on their own properties, esp. John Martin
  - Shelly will work with NRCS and get a list of NRCS funds for lower Ark projects from Tim Macklin
- Prioritize funding for and determine ways to fund control and restoration strategies, education, research, and outreach.
  - Jean will contact the Action Team members to review the grantor's list the Tamarisk Coalition has put together for possible funding sources for the Ark basin projects, research, demo projects, education, etc.
    - Team members: Dwight Gardner, Loran Brinkmeier, Levi Montoya, Jonnalea Tortorelli, Patty Knupp, Fran Pannebaker, Steve Miller, Jeris Danielson, Matt Moorhead, Shelly Simmons, and Emily Lockard
- Determine time-line to accomplish Step 4.
  - Contacts will be made by the next meeting date

#### **Step 5 Determine and Develop a Long-Term Sustainability Program**

- Determine the strategy for engaging the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources to co-chair a working group to formulate a set of solutions and policies for long-term monitoring and maintenance for the watershed.
  - Determine alternatives
- Begin a consensus plan to implement a long-term monitoring and maintenance program describing the technical, political, and financial steps for control implementation and determine the responsible entities.
- Discussion was held on how this step could be accomplished
  - Need to engage policy makers and those that influence policies
  - Need to get collaboration from and partner with other areas with State approved plans
    - Jean will arrange a meeting with the Tamarisk Coalition on how to go about this
- Determine a time-line to accomplish Step 5
  - Contacts will be made by the next meeting date

**Next meeting will be held at SECWCD from 9am – 3pm on Tuesday June 22, 2010**