

SE Utah Riparian Partnership Spring 2017  
 Meeting  
 April 12th, 2016 from 2 – 4 pm  
 BLM Conference Room



**Attending:**

Name	Affiliation
Natalie Conlin	FFSL
Eli Tome	FFSL
Kara Dohrenwend	RRR
Gabe Bissonette	BLM
Elaine Gizler	Moab Travel Council
Shannon Hatch	TC
Rusty Lloyd	TC

Jake Deslauriers	UCC
Liz Ballenger	NPS
Tim Higgs	Grand County Weed
Tif Miller	Moab City
Clint Wirick	USFWS
Todd Murdock	BLM
Jeff Adams	Moab Watershed
Katie Stevens (briefly)	BLM

**Handouts to be attached.**

**Restore Our Rivers update**

**45 minutes**

**Project options and priorities:**

- ROR can only fund planning, monitoring, maintenance and partnership coordination/health activities
- Review list generated through Core Team discussion; rationale for priorities
- Overview of ROR: Successful projects are helped by monitoring, communication, facilitation, and planning- things that are usually difficult to get funded. Tamarisk Coalition (TC) took on this ROR initiative to provide funding for partnerships such as SEURP that are doing good work and need funding for these hard-to fund items.
- Core Team determined who would be conduit for this funding.
- 2 expectations for this funding: money should be used for a longer time item (planning documents, etc); and, the partnership should create match for the grant. The match can't be federal or State dollars. It can be cities, counties, and private donors.
- Distribution points: March 2017 & 2018. Each partnership received \$38,888.88 (9 partnerships across the Intermountain West). 2018 funds are secured already.

**ROR budget review**

- Go over summary budget and draft of more detailed budget for the \$38,888.89 provided for 2017
- Feedback on budget from the group
- Core Team decided that priorities for this funding include monitoring and new and updated management plans (revisit former plan, and make a new, more detailed plan). Moab Area Watershed Partnership plan already exists, but this new plan would be more on-the-ground specific. Mill/Pack and Castle Creeks would be priorities.
- **Kara would like input/ feedback on these draft budget proposals: see spreadsheets for budget breakdowns.**

- Anyone is welcome to attend the Core Team meetings to discuss these topics.
- Biggest outcome of ROR will be the production of reports to show what we've been doing; to really show potential funders what we've completed/accomplished. Full reports and summary reports will be made available (i.e. 200 page full, detailed document vs. 2 page summary).
- We will soon have 10 years worth of vegetation change data. It will be good overlap with beetle monitoring data and trends.
- Tim Higgs would like the County/Tim Graham portion of the budget split out so they know what SEURP is looking for. **Eli will set up a separate meeting with Kara and Tim Higgs to discuss.**
- Rusty mentioned that TC is working on getting more funding for the Tims on the beetle monitoring. Tim mentioned that he is also working with the BLM on funding options. **Rusty will contact the Tims and Gabe to discuss further.**
- There will be considerations of reconnecting floodplains on Mill and Pack Creek.
- We need to ensure that Ravenna grass is included in data collection/reporting and baseline data.
- Core Team received some direction on how to use the ROR funds from the TC. If you have any concerns, be sure to contact Kara, Eli, or Rusty. People at the meeting today agree with spreadsheet showing what funds will be used on this year.
- **If partners have any funding to contribute to any of these activities, please contact Kara.**
- Work is focused in riparian areas along waterways, not so much sites in the middle of nowhere (like stock ponds, desert washes, etc). If these areas are seen as super relevant focus areas, or if it has good relation to the data set, then it should be included.

*Tamarisk Coalition personnel changes and what that means for TC involvement in SE Utah*

- Daniel moved back to Texas; TC is currently still in process of filling his position.
- TC still committed to assisting SEURP and Dolores Partnership.
- Shannon leads Desert River Collaborative; she will also become the TC contact for SEURP.
- The TC contact for the Dolores Partnership will be the new coordinator/new "Daniel".

*Follow Up from December 8*

*30 minutes*

*Moab Travel Council updating hiking info hand outs – a chance for input*

*Moab Travel Council tourism expo – a chance to participate next year perhaps. Do we want to?*

- The Moab Travel Council is using old pamphlets on hiking, minimum impact practices that need to be updated. The plan is to combine all of these many brochure topics, except for biking and OHV. This 'Moab Outdoor Recreation Guide' will provide more comprehensive and updated information, with a lot of education for tourists. This includes topics including: tread lightly, leave no trace, leave historic sites alone, not spreading foreign insects and weeds, etc.

- 2 million visitors to Discover Moab website. The Travel Council markets to tourists, but also provides education. MIC sees 200,000 people/year. Thompson Springs has high visitation, too. Moab Travel Council just doesn't run ads to attract tourists- they do a lot of tourist education. Collected TRT helps City and County with sheriff, EMS, etc.
- “Moab and Beyond”: training seminars for local businesses to assist with educating tourists about what to do/ not to do. Send any pertinent information to Elaine if you'd like it included in this educational material, and what section of the brochure. Send information to Elaine by the end of the year. New brochure will likely be completed in mid-2018. Elaine will let us proof the document before it is finalized.

**SEURP members: Send your information to Todd and Jake if you'd like it included in the Moab Travel Council's educational materials.**

- Perhaps have an additional page on the website with educational information. Feel free to send it sooner than later to Elaine, and perhaps it can get on the website soon.
- It is probably beneficial to have this information coming from the tourism/marketing perspective rather than from the government agencies. Tourists more receptive?
- Getting inquiries from counties in other states who are interested in boosting tourism. Warning them about preparation and drawbacks.
- Tourism produces billions of dollars for State.
- Incorporate existing messages of Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace organizations- no need to reinvent the wheel. The “minimum impact” message is not a clear message to tourists.
- Is there any mechanism for tourists to donate money to local groups? Perhaps the Moab Travel Council could refer tourists to local groups (non-profits, search and rescue, etc).
- **SEURP will send article /story on river restoration, etc. to Moab Travel Council. Has to be in simple language. TC is working on a similar type document that may work.**
- **Also need article on why the tamarisk is brown- TC has a version of this already.**
- Moab Expo was on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at MARC- all the outfitters invited; presentation about customer service. A good place to educate the local community on what is happening in local business, but also a good place to educate local outfitters on these topics. Critical points that they can pass on the tourists
- April 27<sup>th</sup>: “Moab and Beyond” training at the MIC.

*Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) update – poster from FFSL and short discussion*

- No EAB in Utah yet, but EAB has been in Boulder County, Colorado for a few years. Potential tourists from Colorado that could bring beetle infested firewood to Moab. Many of Utah's cities like Moab and Monticello have ash trees as a significant portion of their urban forest canopy. FFSL is encouraging cities to plant a variety of tree species, and certainly not ash. Education happening in Colorado, too.
- Many tree insects and disease can be transported in firewood, not just EAB.
- Utah Dept. of Agriculture and Food currently working on a State Rule to restrict transport of firewood into Utah. Commercial firewood companies will have to get proof of inspection from UDAF to show their wood has been treated properly before transporting into Utah.

- Distributing “don’t move firewood” information and posters to all the agencies in the Moab area
- [www.dontmovefirewood.org/map/utah/](http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/map/utah/)

**Group Projects for 2017/18**

**15 minutes**

Cross Partner WRI Proposal update – funding possible and best ways to coordinate between agencies and departments

Mill/Pack WRI update – funding possible, why done separately from the big proposal

Seven Mile/Courthouse?

Others?

- Colorado River Cross Watershed Restoration WRI proposal
  - Check out WRI website (project ID 4009) for map of specific project locations
  - Proposes 700 acres of new land treatments, and 300 acres of retreatments.
  - Mostly along mainstem of Colorado River, Courthouse Wash, Green River, etc.
  - Partners with community groups and outfitters to do tree plantings in the fall. Will place educational material in ammo cans along the river; ask boaters to water trees (has been used elsewhere with success); sites will be checked for noxious weeds prior to planting trees.
  - BLM and FFSL are contributing funding.
  - Working on private, State, and federal lands.
- Mill/Pack WRI proposal
  - Multi-year projects on Mill/Pack; this one includes private, city and BLM lands.
- Dolores River WRI proposal
  - Lake Bottom and Roberts Bottom area; new cutting, retreatments.
- Weed Supervisor grant (Tim Higgs)
- Seven Mile/Courthouse Wash WRI project (current)
  - UCC crews currently working on BLM, SITLA, NPS, and sovereign lands.
  - Around 60 acres of tamarisk treated so far- mostly thinning, leaving 30% tamarisk cover.
  - Can check out project area at Willow Springs Road- where it crosses Courthouse Wash.
- Matheson WRI proposal
  - reconnecting water and ponds to reintroduce fish.

**Partner Announcements – upcoming projects, events etc...**

**15 minutes**

Labyrinth river clean up

- FFSL Sovereign Lands organized a clean-up trip down Labyrinth Canyon with Utah Guides & Outfitters (UGO); cleaned up garbage, human waste, tamarisk resprouts in previously treated areas. Might grow this trip and invite SEURP members in spring 2018.
- FFSL will have a seasonal employee this year that will go down Labyrinth twice a month, educating tourists and ensuring they have permits. Thanks to NPS funding, they will also wear a NPS uniform and educate tourists along the Moab Daily about safety and minimum impacts along the river.

#### Mayberry Earth Day activities

- First annual planting event 10-3, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Community event, girl scouts attending. Pollinator plants. There will also be an evening event in the fall, likely the same day as the Castle Valley gourd festival.
- Experimenting with modified long stem plantings with irrigation- trying different methods and measuring the plant growth rate annually to see which method is most successful.

#### Others announcements and upcoming events from other groups

##### NPS

- Conservation corps working on exotics projects. Russian olive control in Courthouse Wash.
- Introducing knapweed gall midges along the Green River: Beaver, Tent Bottoms and along the BLM boundary.
- Repave, restore, resurface (RRR) project is Arches: the public is interested in salvaging plants in the construction area. The Park is interested in doing this- **if any SEURP folks are interested in a salvage day, let Liz know.** Windows area will be done in July, so there may be another salvage day.

##### FFSL

- Riparian Forest Partnership

##### USFWS

- Dolores and Matheson WRI projects.

##### BLM

- Gabe is new aquatic ecologist. Still transitioning into position.

##### UCC

- Working on Eli's sovereign lands projects. Looking for a crew member to hire.

##### Grand County Weed

- Western CO- Eastern UT weed meeting April 13. 10-3:30pm Grand Center.

##### Watershed Council

- Urban storm water management might sync with some SEURP related activities.

Moab City

- April 28<sup>th</sup> will be Arbor Day at Rotary Park and Swanny Park (tree planting and education) in combination with Beacon afterschool program. Community is invited.

**Next Meeting Date and Topics**

**10 minutes**

What is the goal? who will organize and coordinate the meeting?

Workshop or Fieldtrip setting?

Late summer or early fall – August or November? Pick some dates to send to entire group

- Tim suggested that new riparian related WRI projects are proposed at the fall SEURP meeting, so everyone is informed.
- Gerrish suggested visiting various tamarisk project field sites along the river for comparison would be a good field trip.
- Early November is likely timeframe.
- Shannon will coordinate with Kara and Eli to determine specifics and potential site visit locations.