

Tamarisk Hazardous Fuel Removal Project

Contact Information: Brian Keating, Fuels Program Manager, 435-259-2195

Location: Multiple BLM-managed public lands along the San Juan River (Bluff wildland/urban interface, Sand Island Recreation Area, swinging bridge.)

Implementation Date: This project was implemented in December of 2009 and continued as weather permitted throughout the winter. Revegetation work was completed in the spring of 2010.

Project Acres: Approximately 300

Project Description: Treatment activities for the Bluff and Sand Island areas included approximately 278 acres of tamarisk and Russian olive bullhog mastication along with hand cutting and piling of invasives and brush over another fifteen acres. Restoration units were selected based upon hazardous fire potential and associated risks to public safety.



Along with the restoration of native riparian habitat, the goals and objectives of reducing invasive species included protecting recreationists, public facilities, and other resources from a high-intensity wildland fire along the riverway and in the WUI adjacent to the town of Bluff. The BLM purchased trees and also collaborated with the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (UPCD) for funding to purchase and apply seed in selected areas. Contract crews have been busy this spring planting trees, wrapping trees to prevent beaver damage, and installing a temporary irrigation system to provide supplemental irrigation during restoration efforts.

The Bluff Tamarisk Project is an essential part of ongoing hazardous fuel reduction and riparian restoration efforts throughout the Canyon Country Fire Zone along the Colorado, Green, and San Juan riverways and their tributaries.