

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 1 of 15

ATTENDEES

Dave Bastian, Utah Conservation Corps
Rhett Boswell, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Jim Catlin, Wild Utah Project
Steve Cox, Boulder Community Alliance
Kim Crumbo, Grand Canyon Wildlands
John Davis, TrekWest
Terry DeLay, US Forest Service
Kim Dolatta, US Forest Service
Sue Fearon, Boulder Community Alliance
Mike Golden, Dixie National Forest
Amber Hughes, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
Kristen Jespersen, Tamarisk Coalition
Grant Johnson, Escalante Canyon Outfitters
Richard Madril, Bureau of Land Management
Jason A. Metzger, American Conservation Experience
Kevin Miller, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
Mariella Minton, Utah Conservation Corps (GSEP summer intern)
Matt Moore, Canyon Country Youth Corps
Sandra Murphy, Interpretive Writer
Jordan Piña, Grand Staircase Escalante Partners (returning GSEP summer intern)
Noel Poe, Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners
Brooke Shakespeare, US Forest Service
Carolyn Z. Shelton, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
Peg Smith, Boulder Community Alliance
Sage Sorenson, Boulder Community Alliance
John Spence, National Park Service
Shane Thon, Utah Conservation Corps (GSEP summer intern)
Dan Trujillo, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Joel Tuhy, The Nature Conservancy
Kristina Waggoner, Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners
Chip Ward, Citizen/writer
Linda Ward, Citizen/energy worker
Ray Wheeler, Earth Restoration Network
Linda Whitham, The Nature Conservancy
Mike Wight, Southwest Conservation Corps
Clint Wirick, US Partners for Fish & Wildlife
Michele Straube, University of Utah (facilitator)

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 2 of 15

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

- GSENM Monument Advisory Committee (MAC)
 - 2 openings (due to resignations)
 - Grazing permittee representative
 - Systems ecologist
 - Contact czshelto@blm.gov for more information

- Last week in June: opportunity to participate in field work
 - UDWR warm water native fish monitoring
 - Contact danieltrujillo@utah.gov or mgolden@fs.fed.us if you're interested

- Week of July 13: opportunity to participate in field work
 - Trend monitoring for Colorado River Cutthroat Trout in Boulder Creek drainage
 - Contact mgolden@fs.fed.us if you're interested

- Sept. 10-12: Cross-Watershed Network (XWN) riparian restoration workshop
 - Cottonwood, AZ (Verde watershed hosting)
 - Primary topics: enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, addressing geomorphic processes, planning for long-term maintenance

- Sept. 12-16: Biennial Conference of Research on Colorado Plateau
 - Flagstaff, AZ

- Sept. 21st: Leave it To Beavers Festival, Anasazi State Park, Boulder, UT

NEXT ERWP MEETING [scheduled since full partnership meeting]

- Monday, August 12 – possible field trip (from Escalante)
- Tuesday, August 13 – 10-5 – full partnership meeting (in Escalante)

TREK WEST (<http://trekwest.org/>) (John Davis, presenter)

- Bring together success stories on the ground, nested into the big picture / continental picture
- John Davis – founder of Wildlands Network
 - “reconnecting nature in North America”
- TrekWest – Mexico → Canada
 - 4-5,000 mile conservation, human-powered, journey
 - Feature wildlife corridors – habitat connections
 - Build network of supporters
 - Featuring various critical issues (including rivers restoration like ERWP work)

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 3 of 15

NORTH CREEK DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (Richard Madril and Kim Dolatta, presenters)

- Grazing permittee – every other year, pushes cattle into North Creek demonstration project area on way between FS and BLM allotments
 - Occurred in 2012; issue will arise again in 2014
 - GSENM met with FS, and explored options to discuss with permittee
 - Leave it up to permittee to identify other lands to use to trail cattle between allotments
 - GSENM contacted permittee, explained situation
 - Need to move more cows faster across North Creek demo project on way to BLM allotment
 - Could fence BLM boundary; BLM could do it; half-mile fence
 - Strive for better communication with everyone in the future
- Permittee is amenable to doing what BLM is asking
 - Private land owner and state land involved as well
 - Move off FS allotment 9/30 – not sure what on-date is for BLM allotment
 - Trailing permit for 1 week?
- 2014 -- Kim Dolatta, Richard Madril and Amber Hughes will communicate with each other about when to expect cows, and for how long

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Coordinating Committee** (Chair, Linda Whitham)
- **Miscellaneous ERWP News**
 - Merged Funding and Executive Committees (decided at strategy retreat in Moab)
 - Funding update
 - Solidify budgets for committees → annual ERWP budget
 - Aspirational funding plan to leverage value of partnership in funding proposal
 - Funding tracking → diverse funding portfolio
 - Ensure compliance with varying funding requirements
 - Demonstrate capability to prospective funders
 - In-kind and volunteer resources allocated to ERWP activities
 - 2013 funding
 - More diverse funding sources
 - No one funding source relied on
 - Funding gaps to check whether project-specific funding has been identified or received
 - Climate change workshop – good for now
 - Springs and seeps inventory – good for now
 - Science workshop – good for now

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 4 of 15

- Leave It to Beaver Festival – have identified all funding required
- Brochures – good for now
- Basin-wide GIS database – ongoing funding gap, but potential funding source identified
- Funding opportunities
 - Bureau of Reclamation / WaterSMART
 -
 - Cooperative watershed management grant program
 - ERWP to request funds for watershed coordinator position
 - Internal and external coordination
 - 6/11/13 deadline; if miss it, well positioned to apply in 2014
 - [Post-meeting note: Grant proposal was submitted by 6/11/13]
 - Bureau of Reclamation / Applied Science Grant
 - Available through Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative (<http://southernrockieslcc.org/>)
 - Collaborative effort to coordinate across agency boundaries on landscape-scale conservation; includes a funding component
 - ERWP becoming a more active participant in SRLCC / science priorities
 - SRLCC has identified based and applied science needs → funding opportunities
 - Geographic scope: Colorado Plateau and extensions to include Southern Rockies
 - SRLCC science needs = overlap with ERWP Action Plan
 - Love UT Give UT (http://loveutgiveut.razoo.com/giving_events/utah13/home)
 - One day on-line opportunity to donate
 - Need to develop on-line profile, then advertise to potential donors
 - Tamarisk Coalition webinar on funding opportunities in UT available on-line
 - <http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/>
- Web Portal Protocol (<http://www.erwportal.org/>)
 -
 - Posted to web portal: Maps, planning documents, charter, papers published, meeting summaries, communication strategy documents
 - Use of web portal encouraged
 - Use FAQs when talking about ERWP and its work
 - How to post to the web portal:
 - Calendar events: send via email (embedded on calendar page)
 - Document: send via email (embedded on “Data Download” page)
 - More detailed web portal protocol is available

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 5 of 15

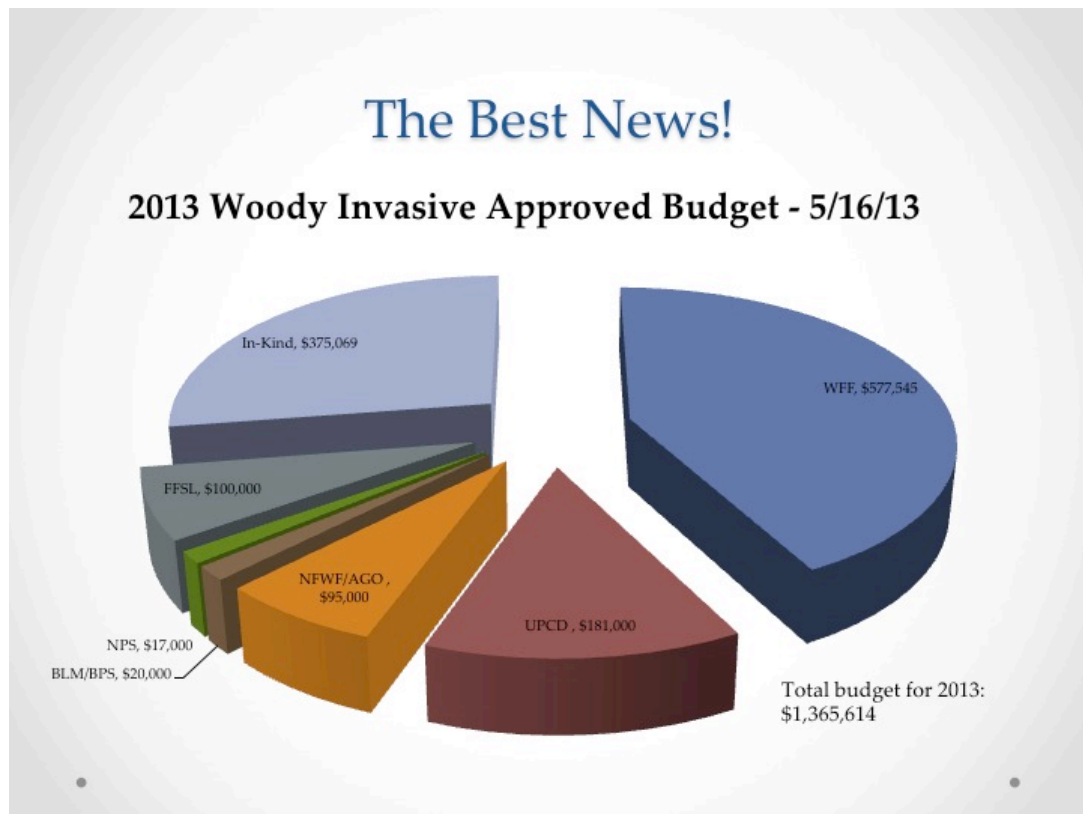
- Self-evaluation
 - ERWP will be conducting a process self-evaluation
 - Coordinating Committee will develop a draft for full partnership review
 - Suggested questions to include:
 - Explore whether we are working as a partnership, or as individual agencies working toward a common goal
 - Lessons learned from North Creek situation
 - What are the expectations / standards against we measure our status
- Action Plan revisions will be completed this summer
 - Joel Tuhy will call committee chairs to gather update information
- Garfield County Commission letters re: ERWP
 - All three federal agencies have gone to their Office of General Counsel in DC
 - All three agencies' lawyers have confirmed that ERWP, as it currently operates, does not fall within the Federal Advisory Committee Act
 - Discussion about partners and supporters being cautious not to act in a way that creates the perception that ERWP is providing advice to federal agencies
 - Individual partners and supporters may provide advice directly to federal agencies in their individual or organizational capacities, just not as a representative of ERWP
- AGO nomination for ERWP → bronze plaque
 - There will be an activity attended by higher level federal agency managers to affix plaque
 - Plaque will be placed on stone out front of visitor center
- Invitation extended to visiting dignitaries to visit ERWP
 - Fri 8/23 or Sat 8/24 (in conjunction with closing ceremony for conservation corps training)
 - Juan Palma, State BLM Director expected to attend
 - Invitation also sent to DOI Sec. Jewell and NPS Director
- ERWP is receiving offers of volunteer time
 - Patagonia-funded intern will be in Escalante during September
 - Will help out with Beaver Festival, Escalante Arts Festival
 - Let Kris Waggoner know if you have other activities for him
 - 5-County Association of Governments (AOG) runs volunteer groups
 - Let Sue Fearon know if you have need of volunteers

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 6 of 15

- **Woody Invasives Committee** (Co-chairs, Amber Hughes and Kris Waggoner)
 - Woody Invasives Control Plan updated (still “drafty”)
 - Some text has been moved to the attachments section, with separate cover page for attachments (document size limitations)
 - Annual report will be added to document every year
 - Leave legacy for other partnerships to learn from
 - Public and private land included
 - 1300 acres of land left to do
 - Extended timeframe (at 200 acres/year)
 - Summary of total anticipated work effort
 - Public lands: 1,276 acres along river (not counting side canyons), started 2000
 - Cost range: \$500-3,000/acre (depends on access, density and treatment techniques)
 - Total cost: Originally estimated at \$2M, will be more
 - Alvey Wash
 - USU inventory crew inventoried RO infestation
 - Stopped at specific points beyond town
 - Think they captured majority of RO population
 - Is mainly within Carcass Canyon WSA
 - Will need to use hand removal activity
 - 2013 funding and planned activity
 - 4-person crew, 11 weeks
 - Side canyons leading to Alvey Wash
 - 2014 – get moving on removal
 - Private lands
 - Canyonland Conservation District has agreed to help with education/ outreach on private land efforts
 - Developing a steering committee for Alvey Wash
 - BCA/GSEP coordination as well re: public/private lands interface in Alvey Wash
 - Reworked priorities for RO removal on private lands
 - Support NRST workshop, focus on Alvey Wash
 - Last year of initial treatments in Boulder
 - Volunteer trips
 - 3 trips so far in 2013: Great Old Broads, Wilderness Volunteers)
 - 3 upcoming trips: Wilderness Volunteers, Navajo Nation Youth (“Native Conservation Corps”)

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 7 of 15

- Impossible2Possible (<http://impossible2possible.com/home>)
 - Run a marathon/day and do community service project
 - 1 week ago – planted 130 cottonwood and willow in demonstration site
 - Video broadcast to 80,000 school children
- Funding
 - Close to projected 2013 funding level
 - Still waiting to hear from at least 2 funding sources



- Monitoring
 - Long-term monitoring
 - By fall, will have 8 out of 10 sites in place
 - 2014 – all 10 sites in place
 - 2015 – start checking sites again
 - Rapid monitoring protocols
 - Impetus for creating protocols came from funder's request
 - 6 different methods (general observations, Dolores River Restoration Partnership methods revised, plot-based quantitative method, simple counts, green-line method, photo points, compare rapid monitoring to long-term monitoring)

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 8 of 15

- Tied to Action Plan targets and goals
 - Look at secondary weeds / what could take over site post-treatment
 - End-of-year WICP committee meeting – review success on specific treatment areas / lessons learned
 - Conservation Corps may have money for tablets
 - Landowner match is determined on a case-by-case basis, based on capability and need
- **Education/Outreach Committee** (Co-Chairs, Kris Waggoner and Linda Whitham)
 - National Riparian Service Team (NRST) – grazing management for riparian areas training course
 - Will be offered for ERWP in November 2013
 - Topics: collaborative planning, focused monitoring, adaptive management, success through operator commitment
 - Canyonlands Conservation District has expressed interest to sponsor training
 - Focus on Alvey Wash
 - Conservation Lands Foundation has awarded funding to GSEP for a 1-year 10/week position
 - Job description: help implement ERWP communications plan, develop ERWP website (within GSEP website), draft news released, work with committees to develop brochures/newsletters
 - ERWP display in GSENM Escalante Visitors Center
 - Mock-up of five panels were on display during the meeting; participants noted any glaring mistakes via stickie notes
 - Layout and artwork from display panels can be incorporated into an ERWP brochure template
 - 2013 ERWP newsletter
 - Has been posted to web portal
 - Hard copies were delivered to every post office box in Garfield County (via *Garfield Insider* insert)
 - Going to 2 newsletters/year
 - ERWP partners and supporters should distribute hard copies of the 2013 newsletter at various locales (e.g., Kirkhams, REI)
 - Other avenues of outreach / media
 - All ERWP partners are encouraged to publish one story related to ERWP per year, and post information about ERWP on their own webpage
 - Please share any information published about ERWP with the Ed/Outreach committee

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 9 of 15

- The “Voices” section of the TNC quarterly newsletter contained ERWP quotes and pics
- Leave It to Beavers Festival (www.utahbeaversfestival.org)
 - Funding mostly received
 - Plan to videotape Sherry Tippee’s presentation and use it for education/ outreach
- Reminder about UDWR presentation on 5/20 evening
 - Escalante Community Center
- **Conservation Targets Committee** (Co-chairs, Mike Golden and Mary O’Brien)
 - BLM / Trout Unlimited Aquatic Analysis update
 - TU needs additional data on riparian condition
 - If ERWP partners have data they’d like to be included, send to Mike Golden
 - Limiting factors database development
 - TU willing to look at using additional time and funds to help make this happen for ERWP, but may be a time limitation at this point
 - Projected funding gap -- \$30-45,000
 - Joint Science/Conservation Targets committees conference call scheduled for 5/31 to decide whether to move forward with a limiting factors database and how
 - Pamphlets being developed: waterwise and native fish
 - Modeled after Virgin River Program
 - Possible partners: UDWR, Three Species Conservation Team, Iron County Extension (horticulturalists), possibly UT Dept of Agriculture, NRCS (and sub-agencies), USU Extension, industry (e.g., pivot manufacturers), possibly Trout Unlimited, UT Farm Bureau, Western Agriculture (lender), US Partners for Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation/Colorado River Salinity Control Coordinator
 - Not interested to partner: Garfield County Extension, UT Association of Conservation Districts
 - Boulder Mountain Ranch / Sweetwater Creek can be used as a model system to ensure that saved water stays in stream
 - Ongoing Main Canyon restoration
 - Hall Creek fish passage
 - Fish barrier removal to connect Colorado River Cutthroat Trout habitat
 - Reconnect over 9 miles of perennial stream
 - Purpose and need for riparian treatments
 - Remove juniper trees → less sediment runoff to streams

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 10 of 15

- 64 acres along 9 miles of stream (includes 2 private landowners)
 - Forest Hwy 17 maintenance and drainage improvement
 - Drainage maintenance on 10 miles of road
 - Resurfacing on 2 miles of road
 - Contracted to Garfield County
- East Fork Boulder Creek native trout restoration
 - Ongoing litigation with irrigation company re: FERC-mandated 2 cfs flow release
 - Therefore, no Colorado River Cutthroat Trout restoration in 2013
- Beaver reintroduction
 - Potential benefits
 - Restore heavily incised streams (increase dropped water table, expand riparian area, improve plant productivity)
 - Various methodologies to support beaver dam construction
 - Creates expanded habitat for threatened species (e.g., boreal toad)
 - UDWR project – using UPCD \$\$ to put in starter dams
 - Suggestions of areas that could benefit from beaver reintroduction and be successful
 - Little Creek
 - Holmes Creek
- Springs and seeps inventory / survey
 - John Spence started testing protocols last week (vegetation, water quality, discharge rates)
 - Applying BLM proper functioning protocol
 - Not finding a lot of the springs noted on map
 - Areas identified on map as springs are actually plunge pools
 - Inventory / survey strategy
 - 2013: 30-40 springs on NPS land (will be about 50% of all NPS springs)
 - 2014: Add in \$\$ for BLM survey
- Legacy cottonwood trees inventory / survey
 - John Spence has developed data gathering form (tree health, interesting tree mutations as they age, wildlife habitat affected)
 - 2013: Testing protocol in 2013 on NPS land

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 11 of 15

- **Science Committee** (Co-chairs, Dennis Bramble and Linda Whitham)
 - Bird monitoring program watershed-wide
 - New, has never been done before
 - Lake Powell → top of Boulder Mountain
 - Develop 2-3 year baseline of riparian bird community
 - John Spence knows of a bird ecologist willing to do a feasibility study
 - Reference area working group
 - Recording groundwater levels with piezometer at headwaters demonstration site
 - Data should be available by fall 2013
 - Research proposal to submit to GSENM
 - Paleo-hydrology and climatology study on ponderosa pine
 - Hosting research botanist and fire history expert to document fire history of Dixie NF
 - Possible reintroduction of native species of fish (dace)
 - Climate adaptation workshop
 - Hopeful for meaningful participation beyond ERWP supporters
 - Script for a diverse audience (uncertain / warmer / drier future, magnitude greater than seen in past hundreds of years)
 - Adaptation for Conservation Target (ACT) process of conducting such a workshop
 - Visual display that educates about ACT process outcomes
 - Consult with DWR re: conservation target(s) to select
 - Planning to hold workshop in 2014
 - Russian olive research project (Mike Scott project)
 - Spatial data compared to RO growth / infestation
 - Identify areas where outbreaks of RO are likely to occur → preemptive strike
 - CSU researchers – ecology and process of RO invasion
 - Seeking funding for research in this watershed
 - Focus on better understanding of ecology → better control strategies (eg, nutrient cycling)
 - Recurrence of RO under different removal strategies → management action prescriptions

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 12 of 15

- **Miscellaneous Announcements**

- Moth species last observed in 1905, thought to be extinct, found at Calf Creek (one sample found)
 - Dr. Paul Opler (lepidopterist)
 - RO removal → native species = habitat for species we don't even realize we're possibly losing
 - GSENM estimated diversity – 1500-2000 species
- Digital research library now on-line (<http://www.li.suu.edu/page/special-digital-collections-grand-staircaseescalante-national-monument-collection>)
 - Southern Utah University, Sherett Special Collections
 - Research anything published about GSENM (oral histories, data, research, papers published, theses, symposium proceedings)
 - Future additions to on-line library: annual reports of research scientists

OTHER PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

- Southeast Utah Riparian Partnership (SURP)
 - Riverway Revival – big celebration last Saturday
 - Tamarisk and RO removal, especially on private lands
 - 20+ years of collaboration
 - Continued need for outreach to communities
- Dolores River Restoration Partnership
 - Spring season – conservation corps crews on ground for 2 months
 - Dedication ceremony for interpretative trail – install early June
 - AGO bronze plaque will rotate through 4 BLM offices
 - Finalize rapid monitoring protocols
- Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition → no new news
- Virgin River Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Collaborative
 - Workshops to be held on southwestern willow flycatcher habitat restoration (floodplains, prime revegetation areas)
- Gila Watershed Partnership
 - Implement local year-round crew to create native plant nursery (with local community college)

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 13 of 15

21st CENTURY CONSERVATION CORPS (Mike Wight, presenter)

- America's Great Outdoors project (based on nationwide listening sessions)
 - One recommendation was to create a 21st Century Service Conservation Corps
 - Use youth to help with restoration activities on public lands ("increase youth investment with public lands nationwide")
- Corps website: www.corpsriverrestoration.org
 - Additional outreach tool for ERWP (resources page, news section)
 - Mike looking for feedback on ways to enhance the website

VIDEO: SOUTHWEST RIVERS: CASE STUDIES ON RESTORATION

- Video developed by BLM National Training Center was shown during lunch
 - Featured Dolores, mainstem Colorado, Escalante
 - On-line training modules also available

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 14 of 15

**Escalante River Watershed Partnership
May 20-21, 2013**

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante

Meeting Schedule

Sunday, May 19

- 6 pm – Dinner at Escalante Outfitters (\$20, **RSVP by 5/12** to kris@gsenm.org)

Monday, May 20

- 9-10 am – Coordinating Committee meeting (Interagency Office)
- **10-5 – full partnership meeting** (Interagency Office)
 - Video during lunch in auditorium: “Southwest Rivers: Case Studies on Restoration” (produced by BLM Training Center)
 - Lunch will be pizza and salad (\$12, **RSVP by 5/10** to amber_hughes@blm.gov)
- 6-7 pm – Community social hour (Escalante Community Center, hearty appetizers)
- 7-8 pm – UDWR presentation: “Fish and Wildlife in the Escalante River Watershed” (Escalante Community Center)

Tuesday, May 21

- 9-11 am – Woody Invasives Control and Restoration Committee meeting (Interagency Office)
- 11-12 – Conservation Corps joint training planning meeting (Interagency Office)

May 20 Full Partnership Meeting – Agenda

10:00-10:15	Introductions Housekeeping	Facilitator
10:15-10:45	TrekWest	Jim Catlin John Davis
10:45-11:15	North Creek demonstration project	Richard Madril Sean Stewart Terry DeLay
11:15-12:30	Committee Updates	
	• Coordinating Committee (30 min)	Linda Whitham Kristen Jespersen

Escalante River Watershed Partnership (ERWP) Meeting 5/20/13
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Interagency Office, Escalante
MEETING SUMMARY P. 15 of 15

- Woody Invasives & Restoration (45 min) Amber Hughes
Kris Waggoner

- 12:30-1:30 **LUNCH** (\$12)
RSVP to Amber Hughes by 5/10

Video shown in auditorium: "Southwest
Rivers: Case Studies on Restoration"

- 1:30-3:20 Committee Updates – cont'd.
 - Conservation Targets (45 min) Mike Golden
Mary O'Brien

 - Science (20 min) John Spence
Linda Whitham

 - Education/Outreach (45 min) Kris Waggoner
Linda Whitham

- 30 min **BREAK**
3:20-3:50

- 3:50-4:00 Conservations Corps Update Mike Wight

- 4:00-4:20 Other Partnership Updates Partnership reps

- 4:20-4:30 Upcoming Events All Partners

- 4:30-5:00 Additional Agenda Items (if any)

Schedule Next ERWP Meeting