ERWP Coordinating Committee Updates
Coordinating Committee 2021
Accomplishments

• New Coordinating Committee Members
  • Taryn Preston – NPS
  • Erin Faiferlick – BLM
  • Kaitlin Martin – GSEP

• Staffing transitions
  • Jonathan Paklaian moved to a new position with Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative

• Science Symposium
Coordinating Committee 2021 Accomplishments

• ERWP Charter and Partnership Agreement Update
  • No longer a formal signatory process and less formal language
  • More detail on Coordinating Committee meetings and expectations
  • Shift in focus from building to sustaining the Partnership
• Website updates
• Restructuring of Capacity Funding
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ERWP Stewardship and Community Engagement Committee Update

ERWP Full Partnership Meeting 2021
Stewardship = Volunteers

- Main Point of Contact: **Kaitlin Martin**, Stewardship and Education Coordinator for Grand Staircase Escalante Partners and co-chair of the ERWP Stewardship and Community Engagement Committee
  - kaitlin@gsenm.org, 406-431-0218
- If you have an idea for a project that could benefit from having volunteers, we have created a [Google Form](#) for you to fill out. Once the form is filled out, we will contact you about next steps in getting the project on the ground.
  - Target: If your committee has a project that you’d like volunteer help with in 2022, submit basic details via the form by the March Partnership Meeting
- Collaboration! Members of other ERWP committees know more about what projects might benefit from volunteer help, while Stewardship and Community Engagement Committee members can offer event planning, advertising, group management, and safety.
Community Outreach = Field Trips

- We can offer logistical support to plan and implement educational “field trips” (e.g. a “field tour” open to the public) in the watershed on topics addressed by ERWP committees (Riparian Restoration, Uplands Restoration, Springs, Native Fish and Wildlife, and Climate Change).
- This could look like a hike along the Escalante River talking about Russian olive removal, a walk to a spring to talk about endemic spring species, or even a webinar about an ERWP related topic. Flexibility on method, location, time, and content.
- We have the capacity to help with 1 field tour per committee per year (up to 5 total public engagement events per year).
Field Trips

- Possible tour leaders include a member from the committee or another partner involved in ERWP projects. Committees interested in doing a field tour can identify a tour leader or brainstorm options with Stewardship & Community Engagement Committee.

- We will help you plan the trip or talk, advertise the event, manage signups and participant communication, and help facilitate the program (e.g. group management).

- We’d like to have a sense of who would like to do a 2022 field tour by the March Partnership Meeting. (Contact kaitlin@gsenm.org.)
ERWP Climate Change Committee Activities Report (November 17, 2021)

- Monitor, Document and Interpret Climate Change Impacts on Natural Ecological Systems
- Create Place-Based Data Sets That Encourage Future Scientific Research

**Project 1: Upper Sand Creek Research Natural Area (Dixie NF)**

Documenting Baseline Biodiversity: 2 More Bio-blitzes

*Vascular Plants: 183 species (multiple contributors)*

*Bryophytes (mosses): 15 species (J. Spence)*

*Lichens: 75 species (S. Levitt)*

(DNA Analyses)

Future Biological Surveys: Animals (Birds, Mammals, Arthropods)
To Date
Sampled 23 trees and collected 49 cores.
Currently being analyzed (cross-dating and measuring)
Oldest core extends back to ~520 Years (= year 1501)

Next Steps For RNA:
- Produce a list of key questions that will inform:
  - Most appropriate monitoring protocol (e.g., USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis)*
  - Placement and types of physical measurement instrumentation (weather stations, etc.)
  - Species of special interest (most vulnerable to climate change)

* but greater emphasis on understory communities

Historic Megadrought
Project 2: Hobbit / Alvey Springs Study (Dixie NF; Private Land)

Study Impact of Climate Change on Spring Hydrology and Associated Ecological Communities

Will Monitor For Climate Related Changes In:
- Water Temperature, Chemistry, Production
- Water Dependent Plant Communities
- Aquatic Invertebrate Composition
- Spring Utilization By Terrestrial Vertebrates

Initial Work Completed:
- Spring Assessments (J. Spence)
- Documenting Plant & Bryophyte Biodiversity
- Water chemistry, temp., flow (N. Cabrera)
- Preparations for Fencing (N. Cabrera)

Complement To Upper Sand Creek RNA Project

Hydrologically linked, physically close, but in contrasting physical settings
Springs Committee
NFWF Bring Back the Natives Grant

- Collaborative project between UDWR and GSEP
- Non-native fish management, riparian habitat restoration, and in-stream aquatic habitat improvement
NFWF Bring Back the Natives Grant

Project Update:

1) Non-native fish distribution monitoring and removal and escapement evaluation in mainstem Escalante River conducted spring, summer, fall, 2021.

   - Downward trend in CPUE since 2020.

2) Removal of tamarisk and Russian olive re-growth from riparian habitat near the confluence of Slickrock Saddle Bench Spring and the Escalante River by GSEP, UCC, AZCC

   - All R.O. regrowth removed from site and 7 miles upstream
   - 50% of tamarisk removed on 8 acres of site
   - Restoration biomass deposited into mainstem along 0.35 miles section of site.
Native Fish and Wildlife Committee 2021

► BLM
  ➤ AIM sites (2 Escalante River, 1 Sand Creek, 1 Calf Creek)
  ➤ EA of Calf Creek, NEPA on Slick Rock Saddle Bench Spring (winter 2021)

► US Forest Service
  ➤ Hungry Creek Project
  ➤ Colorado River Cutthroat Trout monitoring

► USFWS/TU
  ➤ Developing wetland creation and potential stream restoration on Deer Creek with Boulder Mountain Guest Ranch.
  ➤ Improving stream flows in the Boulder Creek area.
  ➤ Evaluation flow and flow losses on a couple of ditch systems throughout the summer with a consultant from Montana.

► Additional partner updates???
Upland Committee Updates

PONDEROSA PINE RESTORATION
- Allen Canyon Timber Sale
- Mitchell IRSC
- CCC Timber Sale
- Upper Valley North Timber Sale
- Aqueduct Timber Sale
Riparian Committee: Russian olive treatments

By GSEP staff
- River from ~25 Mile to Coyote Gulch, 31 miles, 5 weeks
- Scorpion Gulch, 50 Mile, Davis, 1 week
- Last Stand, 1 week

GSEP with UCC, 8 weeks
- Last Stand
- 20 miles of River: Death Hollow to Calf Cr, near Boulder Cr, Harris Wash to Fence Canyon

Private land
- 4 weeks Ancestral Lands, last passes on 3 properties in Escalante
- 4 properties around Boulder
Rapid Monitoring

6 weeks
21 sites
112 miles (~6.2 miles/day)

Next year: 18 sites, 36 miles

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Additional Activities

**Boat trip: Fence Canyon to Coyote Gulch**
- Baseflow, no spring runoff at all this year
- Wouldn’t do it again at this level

**Tamarisk work with UDWR**
- Tamarisk
  - 50% removal
  - mosaic pattern
  - TLB resistant plants
- Fish habitat – debris placed into the river, some piles
- Drone flyover – before and after aerial imagery