



## Three Rivers Alliance



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The mission of the Three Rivers Alliance (TRA) is to sustain vibrant natural and human communities of the Republican River Basin by promoting good stewardship of its water, land, and wildlife.



## TRA's Approach

TRA works to:

- ✓ Provide education and information
- ✓ Assist with the science, technology, and resources needed to conserve and preserve range conditions, wildlife habitat, and riparian areas in the basin
- ✓ Promote good stewardship of the Basin through funding projects and consensus-based partnerships
- ✓ Promote understanding and respect for agriculture and its critical role in conservation



## TRA's History

Three Rivers Alliance was formed on July 9, 2008 as a Colorado non-profit corporation to serve the Republican River Basin.

The founders were landowners who wanted to preserve and strengthen the ecosystems and the agricultural viability of their community.

TRA received its 501(c)3 designation from the IRS in January 2009.

TRA forms partnerships that bring private, state, and federal dollars to educate stakeholders and assist landowners to put projects into practice.





## TRA's Program Areas

- Irrigation Efficiency
  - Variable Rate Irrigation Pilot Program
- Ecological Restoration
  - Russian Olive Removal
  - Dead Wood Removal
- Education
  - Ranching and Wildlife
  - Speaker Series
- Research & Assessment
  - Branded Beef Market Analysis



## Variable Rate Irrigation Pilot

- Comparing standard rate irrigation vs. variable rates on same field
- Goal: maintain yield using less net water
- 3 fields enrolled in 3 soil types
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year in progress; year 1 mixed but promising results



## Russian Olive Removal

Before



After



## Dead Wood Removal



Dead wood consolidated in pile (over sign)





## Ranching and Wildlife

- 36 grade-school students from Colorado Springs spent the day at the McArthur Ranch on the South Fork of the Republican River.
- They were taught by 14 high-school students from the Bethune School District.



## Ranching and Wildlife

- The Colorado Springs students visited 4 stations taught by the Bethune High students:

- Ranching
- Birding
- Soils
- Wildlife



## Branded Beef Market Analysis

- A Master's Degree student in the University of Michigan's Business School worked with TRA during the summer of 2011 to analyze market opportunities and supply chain issues for the development of a branded beef business based in the Republican basin.
- The final recommendations are still being refined, but a huge amount of information was gathered for TRA's use and producer benefit.
- The work was supported by TRA member contributions and grants from the University of Michigan and The Nature Conservancy.



## Projects in Development

- Subsurface Drip Irrigation Pilot Program
- Riparian Tree Planting
- Learning exchanges







## TRA's Partners

- The Nature Conservancy
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- US FWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife
- Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
- Yuma County Pest Control District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Colorado Agricultural Preservation Association
- Colorado State University
- Wild Turkey Federation
- Republican River Watershed Association
- Shortgrass Prairie Partnership
- Pheasants Forever
- Local Soil Conservation Districts
- W-Y Groundwater Management District



## Summary

- Resources for restoration
- Technology demonstrations & transfers
- Partnerships
- Education
- Training
- Convene dialogs



## It's about the future ...



## Get Involved ...

- To learn more about the Three Rivers Alliance and get involved, contact any TRA member.
- You can contact TRA at by e-mail at their web site:  
[www.threeriversalliance.org](http://www.threeriversalliance.org)

