

JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

Jordan River Natural Areas Forum (JRNAF)

December 12, 2006 Meeting

Attendance: Kent Player; Draper, South Valley Parkway
Vaughn Lovejoy; Tree Utah
Katie Wagner; Great Salt Lake RC&D
Ben Bloodworth; State Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Amber Richman; USDA, APHIS, PPG
Karen Nichols; Stantec Consulting
Jeff DenBleyker; CH2M Hill
Natalie Rees; Water Resources Planning Program

Use of Tamarisk Beatle – Amber Richman; USDA, APHIS, PPQ

Amber Richman of the USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service gave a powerpoint presentation on the use of the Tamarisk Beetle (Please see attached PDF). Beetles have been released along the Colorado River and recently on the Galena property along the Jordan River. The beetles that were release in the Galena property are in a non-active, diapause, wintering state and will not begin to feed on the Galena Tamarisk until spring. Some points from Amber's presentation include:

- Tamarisk trees create saline/alkali soils and use up to 200 gallons of water per day per tree.
- Tamarisk trees also produce oil in their leaves and therefore create a substantial fire hazard.
- USDA can only use Tamarisk Beetles on State or private land, not Federal land.
- An eighteen (18) year study was conducted prior to applying Tamarisk Beetles in natural areas. This study found that the Beetle will only feed on Tamarisk.
- In 2000, the USDA for picked five (5) states for pilot applications of the Tamarisk Beetle. States identified for this pilot application included: Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Texas, and New Mexico. Beetles were initially released in 2001.
- Beetles are released in an aggregate on one spot. They subsequently move together to additional trees. Their movements are based on hormonal releases.
- The Beetles can move up to ½ mile per week in mid-July through September.
- Tamarisk Beetles essentially stress the trees by eating the foliage.
- The Tamarisk seed supply is typically gone by the 10th year of the treatment.
- Beetles are available from July 10th through August 31st. This is their breeding season.

- Beetles are free; however, entities wishing to use this treatment need to collect the beetles themselves.
- Some local applications of Tamarisk Beetles include:
 - o Phil McCraley of Salt Lake County has conducted some releases locally.
 - o Kennecott Lands Co. has used these beetles on their bird refuge.
 - o UDOT has used the beetles on some of their land off of I-80.
 - o The recent application of the Beetle on the Galena property.
- Some concerns associated with the Tamarisk Beetle include:
 - o Failure to establish due to predation and/or flooding.
 - o New collection typically requires 30,000 beetles be applied 3 x's per year.
- There is a Tamarisk Coalition out of Colorado with more information on Beetle application www.tamariskcoalition.org.

Jordan River Corridor Planning in Utah County – Jeff DenBleyker of CH2M Hill

- Jeff DenBleyker of CH2M Hill has been working on a Jordan River corridor study for the Utah County section of the River over the past year (See attached PDF).
- This project was funded by Saratoga Springs and focused on the development of an Erosion Hazard Zone (EHZ) for this section of the River.
- The study examined the River from the outlet of Utah Lake to 9600 North. The scope of the analysis was established by Saratoga Springs and did not extend to the Salt Lake County boundary due to jurisdictional boundary limits.
- CH2M Hill is finalizing the study this month. Saratoga Springs will then move toward formally adopting the identified Erosion Hazard Zone.
- Some notable comments included:
 - o Nephi is not participating in this study.
 - o Utah County has let planning and jurisdiction to local governments.
 - o The average slope of the River in this section is ~0.6°.
 - o The River was dredged following the 1983 floods.
 - o The River has not moved much since the late 1800's. This may be primarily due to the controlled outlet of Utah Lake.

Update of UP&L restoration site in West Valley

- Neither Richard Buelte nor Jim Burruss were able to attend the JRNAF meeting, they sent However, Mr. Buelte sent some photos of the West Valley site prior to, and post treatment (See Attached). Additionally, Mr. Buelte mentioned that:
 - o UP&L treated the Tamarisk with Slash Buster before they cleared the trees.
 - o UP&L then treated the cut stumps of all the Russian Olive and Siberian elm trees, so they will not grow back.
 - o Every effort was made to leave cottonwood and box elder trees that were not below or to close to the transmission lines.

Land Acquisition/Prioritization along the Jordan River

- It was mentioned that Salt Lake County is looking to use the recently passed Open Space Bond to purchase lands along the Jordan River.
- Maps of land use along the River were displayed.
- JRNAF members were asked if there are parcels that they think would be important to acquire or if there are characteristics that the County should focus on in identifying parcels for acquisition.
- Only a few minutes were left for this discussion. Therefore, it was determined that an entire meeting should be devoted to this subject. It is anticipated that maps and additional information will be distributed to JRNAF members prior to the next gathering and that we will subsequently devote the next meeting to this subject.

Other Comments, Concerns, Questions etc.

- Kent Player asked why Salt Lake County has not moved ahead in restoration work along the Coats property in Draper. It was his understanding that the easement had been condemned and purchased by Draper City.
- After consulting Steve Jensen of the Salt Lake County Water Resources Planning and Restoration Program, it was made clear that although Draper City has purchased an easement, this easement is for the trail system along the Coats property, not for the bank stabilization work. Salt Lake County has condemned the bank right-of-way; however, the stabilization work will not commence until the easement has been granted.

Next Meeting

The Jordan River Natural Areas Forum (JRNAF) determined that they will continue to meet on a quarterly basis; however, if issues arise and there is a need for more frequent meetings, these will be accommodated. Therefore, the next meeting will be held February 15, 2007. Details will be distributed closer to this meeting date.