

TEAM TAMARISK: COOPERATING FOR RESULTS

*Draft Agenda
(February 06, 2004)*

Issue: Tamarisk in the Southwest has caused severe ecological damage, habitat loss, and economic problems. Areas bordering the Southwest are also at risk. While land and water managers have worked diligently to control tamarisk and manage native plant communities, most of these efforts have been localized, often constrained by political boundaries, conflicting missions and authorities, and lack of effective communication. A strategic regional approach to tamarisk can help organize all levels of government, academia, NGOs, and the private sector under a coordinated, partnership-based, outcome-oriented framework.

Objectives of the conference are:

- To bring together all partners – Federal, tribal, state, and local governments, academia, NGOs, private landowners, and business – to identify opportunities to build partnerships, as well as highlight obstacles that need to be addressed.
- To create an interactive, living map to illustrate the distribution of tamarisk across the Southwest. The map will provide a visual representation of the impact of tamarisk, and will allow managers to highlight areas where projects are underway or where partnership projects may be possible, and to track progress in the removal of tamarisk and management of streamside habitats over time.
- To provide guidance to federal agencies on the most effective ways to maximize the Southwest's return on the federal investment and to achieve a coordinated regional approach.
- To build a commitment to a set of guiding principles that will lead to a coordinated regional approach to achieve effective control of tamarisk and management of plant communities across the Southwest.
- To understand the relationships among tamarisk management, water resource planning, and wildland fire management.

Product:

1. A set of guiding principles that will lead to a more coordinated regional approach to achieve effective control of tamarisk and long-term management of these areas.
2. A strategic regional framework that will highlight areas of project emphasis, project selection criteria, roles of partners, critical research needs, and focus of federal assistance.
3. A mapping tool for priority setting and measuring performance that might have applications in other regions for other species.

Sponsors: Secretaries Norton and Veneman through the National Invasive Species Council, National Association of Counties, the Tamarisk Coalition, Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Center for Invasive Plant Management, and WERC. Participating Interior bureaus include Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Agriculture bureaus include the US Forest Service, the Agricultural Research Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Message Points:

- Tamarisk affects the entire region, so we need to work together as a region.
- Tamarisk does not respect boundaries, so we need to work together on the ground across all levels of government and all types of landowners.
- Tamarisk frustrates the goals of people with variety of interests and policy preferences, so this is an opportunity to join forces and create new partnerships.
- Managers need to focus on the reestablishment and ongoing management of plant communities to restore the diversity of plant and animal communities and reclaim water resources.

Format: Two half-day and one full day sessions, combining speakers, panels, and 4 breakout sessions on:

- Overview of the tamarisk problem
- Constraints and opportunities for success
- Southwest best practices showcase
- Identifying and addressing critical research gaps
- Lessons learned from other control and management efforts
- Identifying opportunities to forge working partnerships

Estimated Attendance: 300-400 participants from states, tribes, federal agencies, NGOs, trade organizations, water and conservation districts, and others with individual or agency expertise and interest in the topic, primarily from the southwestern US.

Dates and Location: March 31 – April 2, 2004
Radisson Hotel and Conference Center
2500 Carlisle Northeast
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(800)333-3333 (hotel registration)
www.werc.net/tamarisk (on-line registration)

Process: After an overview of the issues and opportunities, attendees will split into working groups in separate breakout rooms. Breakout sessions will focus groups on a series of questions related to each topic. Each breakout session will be introduced by a speaker and have a recorder and assigned facilitator. The purpose of each breakout session is to develop a set of principles or discussion points related to the topic under consideration. During facilitated reporting back, rather than extensive individual reports, the facilitator will ask the first table to identify 2 or 3 key points, with each table adding

additional points to the topic under discussion. Panels will be interspersed between breakout sessions to keep a common dialogue flowing.

AGENDA

March 31
Day 1

- 1:00 pm: **Meeting Opens**
Welcoming Remarks
(Introductions by Scott Cameron)
- USDA Secretary Ann Veneman (invited)
DOI Secretary Gale Norton (by video)
- 1:15 pm **Overview of the Tamarisk Problem**
(Introductions by Jim Tate)
- Tim Carlson – Tamarisk Coalition: Overview of the Problem
Tom Stohlgren – USGS: Extent of the Problem (mapping)
The Nature Conservancy/federal agency/NGO/state official – creative ways to address the problem
- 2:00 pm **Charge of the Meeting**
- Identify processes, products, scope of session, logistics. (Meeting Facilitators)
Discuss Products: Set of guiding principles and development of an outline for a region-wide Framework. (Jim Tate)
- 2:15 pm **BREAK**
- 2:45 pm **State Round Table**
- Participants representing the Governors of the 8 affected states in the Southwest region (AZ, CA, CO, NM, NV, OK, TX, UT) are invited to discuss the tamarisk problem and tamarisk control efforts in their states. Participants will discuss state plans, priorities, outreach, and funding efforts, unmet needs, and the possible role of the states in a region-wide tamarisk control effort.
- 4:15 pm **Q & A's and Concluding comments**
- 4:45 pm **Economics of Tamarisk – A Presentation**
Speaker to be determined: Focus on economics of control, habitat management, and biomass utilization.
- 5:30 pm **Networking Reception & Poster session**

**April 1
Day 2**

- 8:00 am **Welcoming Remarks – Introduction of Speaker**
- Scott Cameron, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Performance and Management
- 8:10 am **What the Federal Government Can Offer as a Partner**
- The Honorable Rebecca Watson, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management
- 8:30 am **Breakout Session One: Tamarisk Control – What Role Can I Play?**
- Introduce the topic (*speaker TBD*).
Following the state roundtable, this breakout session will focus on current roles of feds, tribes, states, and local governments, NGOs, private landowners, and others in tamarisk control and habitat restoration. Consider how roles could expand or change to facilitate better cooperation/coordination. Discuss constraints to greater cooperation/coordination. What are the current gaps in coordination between agencies and partners? Where can resources be leveraged or shared?
- 9:45 am **Break**
- 10:15 am **Facilitated reporting back of Breakout Session Results**
- 10:45 am **Breakout Session Two: Identifying and Prioritizing Critical Research Gaps**
- Introduce the Topic (*speaker TBD*):
In this session resource managers will work closely with scientists to identify what questions to ask to meet managers’ information needs. What research is needed by managers to make decisions? How do we make research results most useful and communicate research results?
- 12:00 pm **Facilitated reporting back of Table Session 2**
- 12:30 pm **WORKING LUNCH**
- Best Practices Showcase - Southwest**
- A panel highlighting successful tamarisk control and habitat management efforts through partnerships in the Southwest. The discussion by this panel should bear directly on Breakout Session 3 – Defining Success.
- 1:30 pm Reconvene

Breakout Session 3: Defining Success - Criteria for Identifying Cooperative Projects, Goals, and Performance Measures

Introduce the Topic (*speaker TBD*): Participants provide information and examples of how they identify projects and project goals, plan for partnership opportunities, develop technical and scientific criteria for projects, and document project costs, benefits and results. How can we jointly identify projects and areas for greater coordination? Can we develop a shared set of criteria and protocols?

2:45 pm **Facilitated reporting back on Table Session 3**

3:15 pm **Break**

3:45 pm **Summary of Breakout Sessions – What We Have Heard**

As the groups reported their findings after each breakout session, facilitators recorded these principles. These principles will be summarized and shared again with the participants. They will be posted along one wall of the room, where participants will read, discuss, and improve them.

4:15 pm **Breakout Session Results**

Participants will be asked to move about the room, review principles, discuss amongst themselves, and indicate which principles they accept, reject, or wish to see edited. We hope to see a great degree of group discussion, give and take, and even some consensus during this process.

5:30 pm **Close – Day 2**

A selected or elected group will review the results, make edits where necessary, and prepare a discussion draft of selected principles for Day 3's Breakout Session

April 2 Day 3

8:00am **Toward a Set of Guiding Principles: Multi-Voting Results**

8:30 am **Breakout Session 4: Developing a Set of Guiding Principles for Effective Region-Wide Tamarisk Control and Habitat Management**

Participants will review the proposed principles developed during the 3 Breakout Sessions and develop a final confirmation of principles.

9:15 am **Break**

9:45 am **Ratification of Principles**

10:00 am **Discussion of Next Steps: Using the Principles to Pursue a
Cooperative Strategic Regional Framework for Tamarisk Control
that Begins to Produce Results within One Year.**

Under Development

11:30 am **CLOSE**

Scott Cameron