



Accelerating Riparian Restoration through Community Engagement

#### Joe Leonhard

Riparian Restoration Project Manager

### Background

- Previous Restoration Coordinator for RiversEdge West
- Desert Rivers
  Collaborative
- Managed invasive vegetation
- Connected partners to resources



# Need for Effective Communication

- Scale of the problem
- Collaborative, communitydriven approach
- More durable outcomes
- Increase impact in resilient landscapes





#### Riparian Restoration in Northwest CO

- Arid region --Yampa/White watershed
- Impacted by:
  - Drought
  - Legacy grazing
  - Trapping
- Loss of biodiversity

### Understanding Community Needs

- Livestock production
- Big game connectivity
- Water quality
- Resilience to climate change



### Scaling Up Our Impact

- TNC/BLM 4.5 year agreement to restore streams in seven states
- Implement projects
- Increase partner capacity
- Collaborate and offer resources

## **Goals for Local LTPBR Workshops**

- Support local watershed champions
- Expose landowners to LT PBR
- Connect expertise with local knowledge
- Take restoration tools to private lands



## 2023 Workshop Partners





U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Partners for Fish









## 2024 Workshop Partners









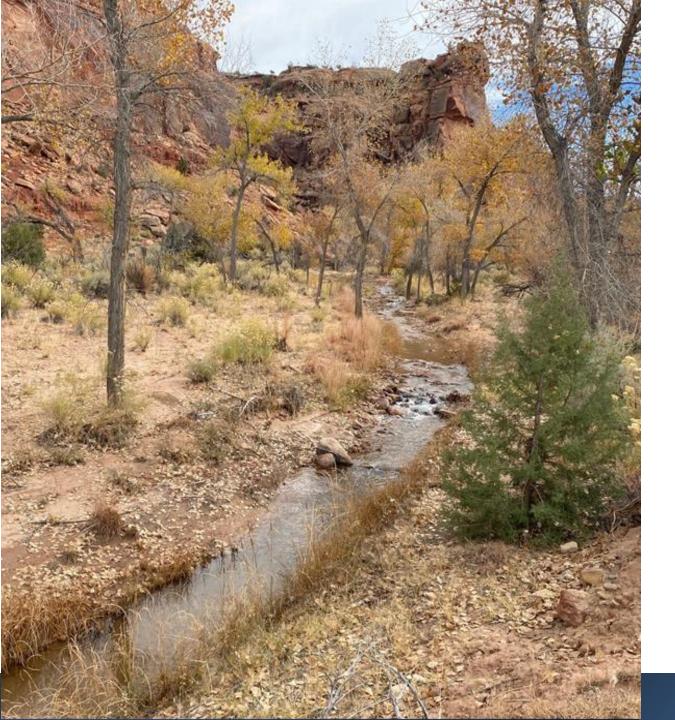






#### **Next Steps**

- Align with community priorities
- Expand reach of workshops
- Identify "showcase" projects
- Develop monitoring protocols



### Why it Matters

- Need for restoration at scale
- Workshops facilitate learning
- Landowner exchange of information
- Community-led priorities have durable outcomes



Thank you!

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