



# 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, community-driven 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

**Miracle in the Desert**  
Riparian Restoration Using Low Cost & Low-Tech Solutions



Learn to **REVITALIZE** ranch creeks and ponds!

Join the White River Alliance for a **FREE** two day hands on workshop highlighting practical riparian restoration methods and stewardship from a rancher's point of view.

**October 1-2, 2023**

Sunday workshop location: 9am-5pm **Meeker Firehouse**  
240 7th Street, Meeker, CO

Monday workshop location: 8am-4pm **Blair Homestead**  
48271 Hwy 64, Meeker, CO

**To Register:**  
Click the following link or QR Code:  
<https://forms.gle/jwNXtr7GjWjMQiwZ6>  
Call or Text: 970-846-9834  
Email: white.river.records.llc@gmail.com



In cooperation with:



# 2023 Workshop Partners





# 2024 Workshop Partners





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## 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!**

- Joe Leonhard  
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