

Dolores River Restoration

There has been a lot of work on the Lower Dolores River Watershed in the West End the past few years and many are asking who is doing the work as some sections of the river along US 141 can be seen for the first time in years with the overgrowth and Tamarisk removed.

More than thirty organizations, dozens of private landowners, and hundreds of community volunteers comprise the Dolores River Restoration Partnership. This public-private collaborative includes public agencies, non-profit groups, schools, and regional businesses.

In 2015, local accomplishments along the Dolores River and lower San Miguel River included:

--Paradox Valley Charter School and Wildlands Restoration Volunteers planted native grasses and shrubs on 20 acres in Bedrock

--Local contractor (BackCountry Vegetation Management, LLC) treated Russian knapweed on 65 acres in Bedrock

--Crews from Southwest Conservation Corps, Western Colorado Conservation Corps, and Canyon Country Youth Corps removed tamarisk on 12 acres of public and private lands in the Paradox Valley and just below the confluence of the Dolores and San Miguel Rivers

--Montrose County treated Russian knapweed along Y-11 Road

--Private landowners, working with Montrose County, Western Colorado Resources LLC, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and Tamarisk Coalition, removed tamarisk and Russian Olive on 30 acres along the San Miguel River and 10 acres in the Paradox Valley.

The pictures are from the Dolores River Plant Identification Workshop in Bedrock on Jun. 10.



Kids Work Day For Carnival Entry

The annual Work for Fun Day, where up to 45 kids from kindergarten through 8th grade can work for an \$18 carnival ticket at the San Miguel Basin Fair, will be held next Thursday, July 7, from 9 to 11:30 AM. Preregistration is required - call the SMB Fairgrounds manager DeeAnna Burbridge at 327-4321 to sign up. The carnival is July 14-16.

Children will be in small groups supervised

by 8th grader team leaders. They will pick up rocks and other debris from the outdoor arena and the track. The kids will need to bring their own buckets which they will dump in Burbridge's 4-wheeler as it makes its rounds. No open toed shoes or sandals and sunscreen and bug repellent is recommended.

Cooking Matters Classes At WEEDC

Tri-County Health Network's Cooking Matters classes will start again on July 5, but at a new venue at the new West End Economic Development Corporation's (WEEDC) Co-working Space and Community Kitchen in Naturita.

Classes will run for six weeks, from July 5 to Aug. 9, every Tuesday from 4 to 6 PM. The classes are a joint effort between Tri-County Health Network and Cooking Matters to offer free, hands-on cooking classes over the course of six weeks.

Classes are designed to empower individuals with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to identify and prepare healthy and affordable meals, exposing participants to evidence-based nutrition lessons, meal preparation, grocery shopping, and food budgeting. The interactive classroom environment also encourages participants to share and discuss their knowledge and barriers about adopting healthier nutrition, food shopping, and physical activity.

WEEDC's new Co-working Space and Community Kitchen doesn't officially open until July 22, so participants will also get a sneak peek of the building, which will offer high-speed internet, private offices, event and meeting space, and a community kitchen, where Cooking Matters classes will be held.

The kitchen offers a commercial gas range and oven, reach-in refrigerator and freezer, mixer, kettle-steamer, three-compartment sink, and work tables.

For access to the building

and its amenities once the building opens to the public, people will need to become members of WEEDC's Collective Mine. Members will be granted 24-hour access to the space.

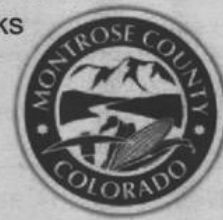
For more information about Cooking Matters, please contact

Tri-County Health Network at 970-708-7096. For information on the Collective Mine and how to become a member, email weedc@chooswestend.org.

For information on Tri-County Health Network, visit: www.tch-network.org.

West End HHS Office will be Closed Two Weeks

The Montrose County Health and Human Services Office will be closed for the last two weeks of June. The office will reopen July 5th.



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