



“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”

*A coalition of counties, communities, businesses &
individuals*

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01-9 WA 3 TAMARISK COALITION

WHEREAS: The Tamarisk is a deciduous shrub/small tree that was introduced to the western U.S. in the early nineteenth century from Central Asia and the Mediterranean for use as an ornamental, windbreaks, and for erosion control; and

WHEREAS: The Tamarisk crowds out native stands of riparian and wetland vegetation, increases the salinity of surface soil rendering the soil inhospitable to other plants, and provides generally lower wildlife habitat value than native vegetation; and

WHEREAS: The Tamarisk dries up springs, wetlands, and riparian areas by lowering surface water tables and widens floodplains by clogging stream channels; and

WHEREAS: The Tamarisk uses significantly more water than Cottonwood or Willows, with a mature stand using up to an additional foot of water per year; and

WHEREAS: The Tamarisk increases fire hazard and the intensity of fires that severely damage sensitive riparian vegetation; and

WHEREAS: The Tamarisk is now believed to cover 1.5 million acres of land in the western U.S. and will likely spread to another million acres over the next ten years; and

WHEREAS: The Tamarisk Coalition is an organization of agencies, organizations, and landowners working together to restore and maintain the native riparian habitats in Western Colorado affected by this species;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports the Tamarisk Coalition and recognizes the importance of coordinating efforts to begin the effort of restoring riparian lands affected by this species.

Adopted September 7, 2001