

# Hard Work for a Healthy River

## Multi-faceted Approach to Restoration

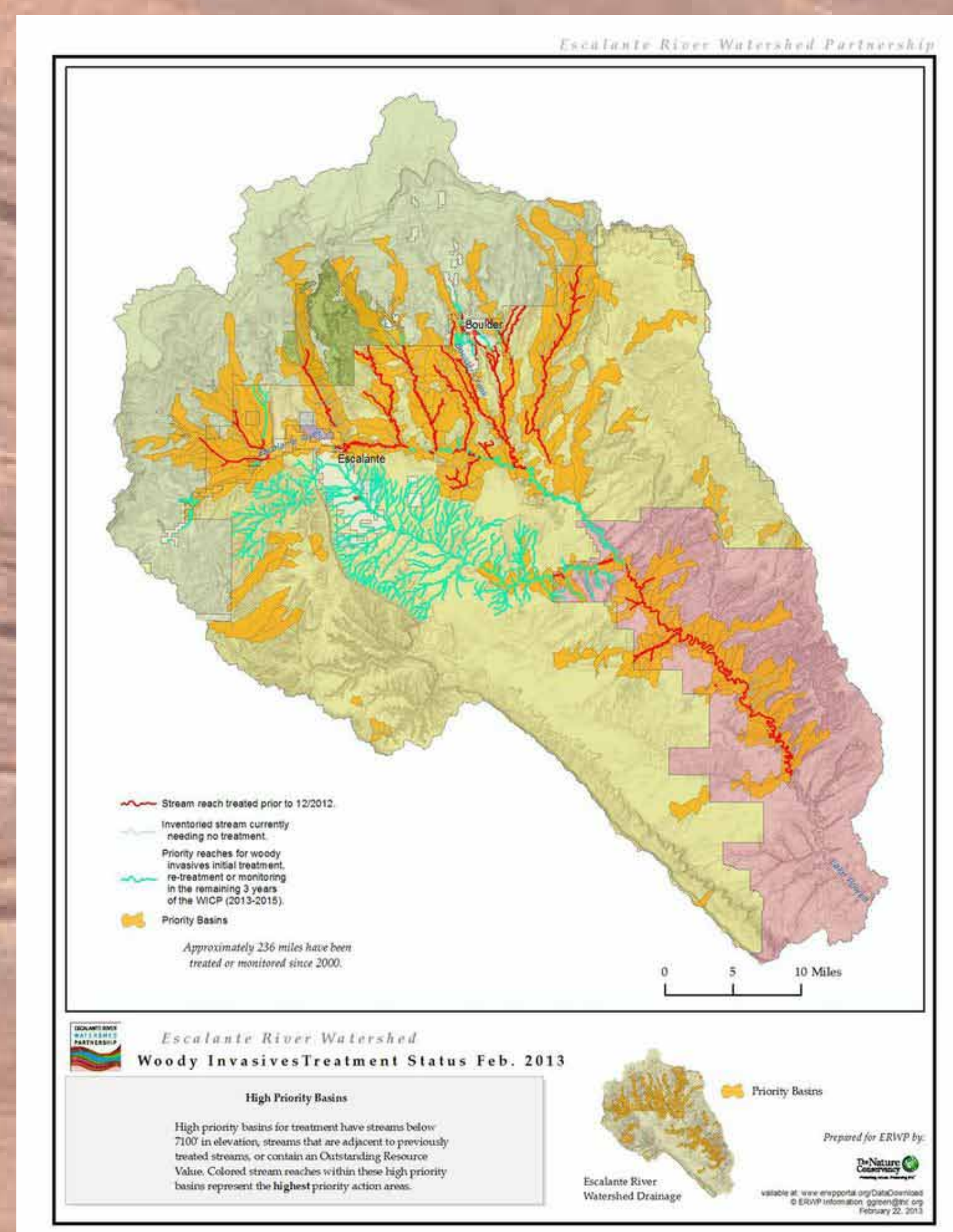
What is the Escalante River Watershed Partnership doing to improve watershed health? Here's just a small sampling of current projects:

- Removing Russian olives from priority basins on public lands.
- Actively planting native species following Russian olive removal.
- Monitoring the effect of the tamarisk beetle on tamarisk, another woody invasive in the canyons.
- Monitoring the ecological and social impacts of beaver reintroduction to restore wetlands functions.
- Conducting a basin-wide inventory of seeps and springs.
- Identifying opportunities in local communities for water conservation practices in agriculture.
- Restoring headwaters streams to facilitate native fish passage.



NPS biologist John Spence discusses the importance of springs and seeps in the watershed during an ERWP field trip.

Amber Hughes



During the coming years, the ERWP will continue riparian restoration in the Escalante River canyon system.



Volunteer applies approved, non-persistent herbicide to Russian olive stump.

Amber Hughes

## Blood, Sweat, and Smiles

Anyone who has bloodied their arms on the inch-long thorns of a Russian olive or dulled a chainsaw on its dense wood knows that it takes determination and brute force to clear these invasive trees. The ERWP has found a powerful ally in this challenging task through the Conservation Corps Network.

Conservation Corps crews of young men and women use chainsaws, handsaws, loppers, and carefully applied herbicide to remove trees and prevent them from resprouting. It's a phenomenal win-win situation—the canyon is transformed and crew members receive both a salary and valuable work skills.



Conservation Corps crew training session, August 2012.



Conservation Corps members take a break from cutting Russian olives along the Escalante River.

Amber Hughes

The ERWP welcomes volunteers from every walk of life to carry out restoration projects. Come join us!

