

ESCALANTE RIVER

UTAH



Bureau of Land Management

Project Name: Escalante River Watershed Partnership

Project Type:

- Recreation
- Restoration (Riparian)
- Species Recovery
- Youth

Project Description: The Escalante River was the last river of its size to be discovered in the lower 48 states, and today it's one of the last free-flowing rivers in the West. From the town of Escalante to its confluence with the Colorado River in Lake Powell, the Escalante's 90

miles of riparian corridor support more than 200 species of migratory birds, including the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher, threatened yellow-billed cuckoo, federally-listed Mexican spotted owl, and peregrine falcon. The watershed also supports several rare fish, including remnant populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout in the upper reaches, as well as Bluehead sucker, Roundtail chub, and Flannelmouth sucker in its warmer waters. In addition to sustaining the natural wonders of this region, the Escalante plays a vital role for residents and visitors. From recreation to agriculture to industry, the waters of the Escalante fuel livelihoods and support our quality of life.

To restore the Escalante River, the partner groups work together to remove woody invasive plants, particularly Russian olive, from riparian areas. Watershed restoration will improve riparian condition, enhance native fisheries, and improve the recreational experience of visitors to the area. These projects make extensive use of volunteers and Youth Corps crews, successfully engaging the public and young people in the restoration of the watershed.

Lead Federal Agencies:

- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- U.S. Forest Service

Other Partners:

- The Nature Conservancy
- Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners
- Boulder Community Alliance

Outcomes for 2012:

- Complete restoration on 500 acres of riparian areas on private and public lands



Bureau of Land Management