



**Western Colorado Wildlife
Habitat Association**

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Grand Junction, CO 81503

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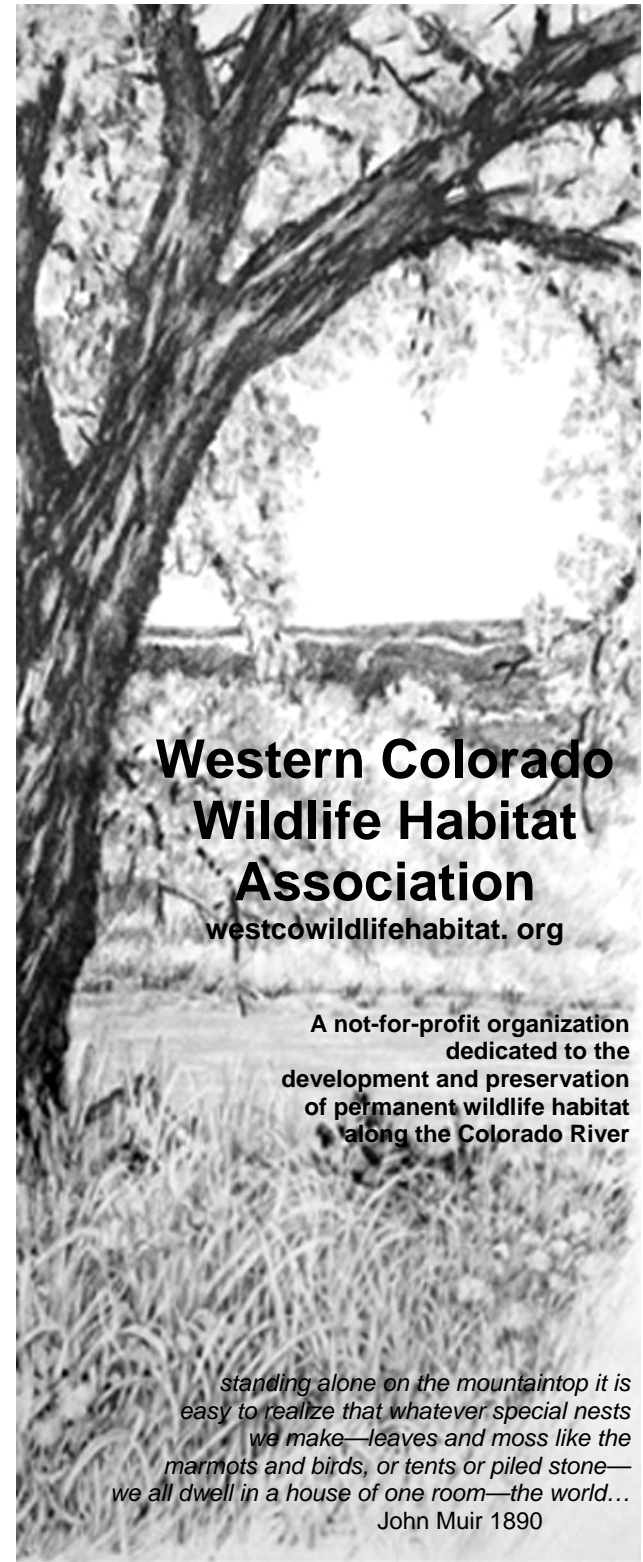
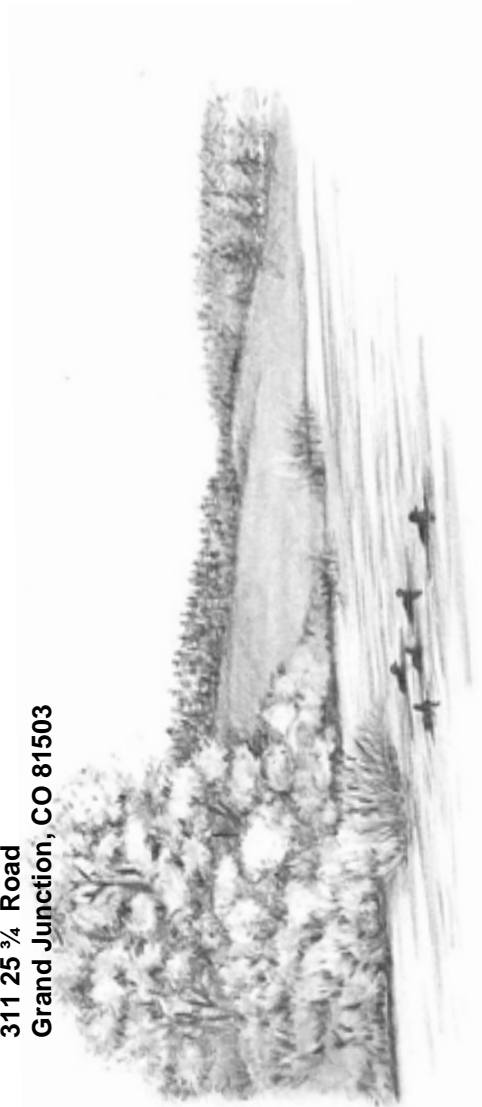
Office: 970-245-4456

*(if we're out in the field when you call,
please leave a message)*

Charles Shannon
Wildlife Area Manager

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Assistant Wildlife Area Manager

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**Western Colorado
Wildlife Habitat
Association**

westcowildlifehabitat.org

**A not-for-profit organization
dedicated to the
development and preservation
of permanent wildlife habitat
along the Colorado River**

*standing alone on the mountaintop it is
easy to realize that whatever special nests
we make—leaves and moss like the
marmots and birds, or tents or piled stone—
we all dwell in a house of one room—the world...*
John Muir 1890

Preserving a rapidly disappearing Colorado River riparian habitat

Canals Became a Problem

For many years, irrigation canals in the Grand Valley—both Federal and private-- provided a riparian habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. By the late 1970s, however, these canals had become a liability.

The problem? The soils of the Grand Valley abound in salt. As water passes through unlined irrigation canals, the salt leaches out and eventually flows into the Colorado River. Some 580,000 tons of salt were flowing into the River every year--posing a hazard to fish, waterfowl and humans and failing to comply with water quality requirements for delivery to Mexico.

Solving the Problem

To solve the problem, the Bureau of Reclamation and other government entities collaborated to implement the Colorado River Salinity Control Project--which included piping and lining selected irrigation canals.

Creating New Habitat

As canals were improved, scattered wetlands and other wildlife habitat dried up and were lost. To compensate for this loss, approximately 2,300 acres of prime habitat along the Colorado River were acquired, developed and preserved.

Meeting the Newest Challenge As growth and development continue to expand in western Colorado, these areas will play a key role in preserving the rapidly disappearing Colorado River riparian habitat.

Who We Are

The Western Colorado Wildlife Habitat Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Under contract with the Bureau of Reclamation, we manage four Wildlife Areas along the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers comprising over 1,000 acres in Mesa and Garfield Counties.

What We Do

- restore native cottonwood riparian forests
- plant trees, shrubs and grasslands
- create wetlands
- plant food plots including sunflowers, millet, winter wheat and corn
- eradicate noxious weeds and tamarisk

The Wildlife Population

These Wildlife Areas play host to an abundance of wildlife, from migratory birds, waterfowl, otters and Sandhill Cranes to deer,



elk and the occasional mountain lion or bear.

Our Commitment

These “islands” of habitat belong to the wildlife that dwells upon them. We are simply stewards of the land.

To ensure protection for these areas, access by the public is limited—with seasonal closures for nesting, for example. Access restrictions are posted on our website and at Wildlife Area boundaries. Camping, bicycling and dog walking are not allowed.

How You Can Become Involved

- Community service oversight
- Habitat tour guide
- School liaisons
- Bird nest box building
- Fence repair
- Mowing
- Irrigation
- Weed and brush control
- Planting
- Tree thinning
- Site monitoring
- Equipment repair and maintenance
- Volunteer coordination
- Graphic arts
- Web site design and maintenance
- Computer data base design and maintenance

We accept financial donations (tax deductible) as well as farm-related equipment and materials. Please see our website or call for additional information.