



SECTION I: CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORING VISIT BACKGROUND

Background	
Property Name	Silt River Preserve
Conserved Acres	132
Year(s) Conserved	2010
Conservation Values	WILDLIFE, AGRICULTURE, SCENIC OPEN SPACE, PUBLIC RECREATION
Current Owner	Town of Silt
Primary Property Contact	Trey Fonner, Public Works Director PO Box 70 Silt, CO 81652 trey@townofsilt.org, 970-876-2353 ext 106
Primary Property Contact Present During Visit	Yes
Contact Notes	Toured property with Trey Fonner (Town of Silt) and Nate Higginson (Middle Colorado Watershed Council).
Monitor Name	David Erickson
Monitoring Method	Ground
Date of Visit	2018-10-05
Description of Ground Monitoring Method	Walked ranch road to ponds then walked NW to western boundary. Walked east through northern portion along the river and back to parking lot via ranch road.

SECTION II: BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

ROADS	
Road Update	Yes
Road Description	The Town of Silt put a temporary road through the riparian zone in order to build a new foot bridge. They did this in the winter of 2018 with the blade of a small backhoe. They plan to allow this to re-vegetate.



SECTION II: BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

TRAILS	
Trail Update	Yes
Trail Description	<p>Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV) organized a trail build day on May 5th that was attended by over 30 volunteers. RFOV also managed a crew of 10 from Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. (sponsored by Garfield County) who spent 4 days building trail in mid-June. In total, a ~0.8 mile loop through the riparian zone was almost completed. The western most section of this loop is the last piece to finish.</p> <p>The new trail was quickly overgrown with weeds, especially knapweed. The hope is that the remaining segment can be completed soon and trail signs used -- including something at the parking area -- to guide users.</p> <p>In addition, Town of Silt staff built a foot bridge across the small channel separating the agricultural area from the riparian area. Silt plans for this bridge to serve as a future connection to trails into the remainder of the property that were contemplated when the town acquired the property.</p>
IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE	
Irrigation Infrastructure Update	Yes
Irrigation Infrastructure Description	<p>Irrigation infrastructure on 10.2 acres of pasture in the SW portion of the property was updated this year with the help of a Colorado River District grant and the annual Gerry Pace grant. This includes three new sprinkler gun connections, a 920' side roll, associated pump, power connection and waterlines. By next year, over 32 acres of pasture on the property will be irrigated with sprinklers. Trey hopes to reuse the gated pipe that formally flood irrigated these SW pastures to bring irrigation back to the area between the ponds and the riparian zone.</p>
UTILITIES	
Utility Update	Yes



SECTION II: BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

Utility Description	Holy Cross electric is going to add two new power poles to bring electricity to a new irrigation pump that will service the improvements underway in the SW portion of the property.
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SECTION III: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF PROPERTY

AGRICULTURE	
Property Used For Agriculture	Yes
Type(s) of Agricultural Activity	Livestock
Description of Agricultural Use of Property	Property is currently leased to Wayne Pollard, a local rancher, for cattle grazing (winter through spring).
WATER RIGHTS	
Water Rights Associated with Property	Yes
How are Water Rights Used on Property	To irrigate the pastures and 1-acre community garden plot.
RECREATION	
Recreation Use of Property	Yes
Description of Recreation Use	Public use of the property for walking and fishing.
WEEDS	
Noxious Weeds Observed or Reported	Yes
Noxious Weed Species Observed or Reported	Bull thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>), Canada thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), Common Tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>), Hoary cress/Whitetop (<i>Cardaria draba</i>), Houndstongue (<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>), Musk thistle (<i>Carduus nutans</i>), Oxeye daisy (<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>), Russian knapweed (<i>Acroptilon repens</i>), Russian olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>), Salt cedar/Tamarisk (<i>Tamarix</i> spp.), Scotch thistle (<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>)



SECTION III: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF PROPERTY

Description of Noxious Weed Issue(s)	Due to drought conditions and soil disturbance, weeds were pervasive , especially in the northern portion of the property. A technician from the South Side Conservation District inventoried the property and created a map of weed locations that is attached to this report. Numerous weed species were noted with Russian Knapweed being the most dominant species.
Are Weeds Treated on Property	Unknown
Description of Treatment	The town of Silt, with financial assistance from Garfield County, was trying to get a fall spray of knapweed and thistle.
Weed Management Suggestions	Need a multi-year weed management plan.
NATURAL HISTORY OBSERVATION(S)	
Natural History Observation(s)	Yes
Description of Natural History Observation(s)	Saw deer and turkeys during the monitoring visit. Also, the mating pair of Bald Eagles nested on the island and fledged two young this year.

SECTION IV: MONITORING PHOTOS

Photo Point - 1 Property overview from mound between ponds. (39.539109, -107.664466)



View W



Aspen Valley Land Trust
320 Main Street, Suite 204
Carbondale, CO 81623
970-963-8440
dave@avlt.org



View N



View E



View S

Photo Point - 2 New footbridge across channel. (39.540564, -107.668597)





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Photo Point - 3 Rock lined entrance/exit to new trail built by volunteers and the youth corps this year. (39.540761, -107.668609)



Photo Point - 4 Portion of new volunteer built trail that was covered in weeds. (39.540821, -107.668285)



Photo Point - 5 Looking along a portion of trail built this year. (39.540860, -107.667001)



View E



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Photo Point - 6 Looking through the riparian zone. (39.541231, -107.666629)



View E



View W

Photo Point - 7 Trail along river worked on by the youth corps. (39.541628, -107.666235)



View W



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Photo Point - 8 Overview of eastern most pasture. (39.538119, -107.662710)



View E



View NE

Photo Point - 9 Overview of historic barn structure. (39.537099, -107.662528)





Photo Point - 10 Overview of western portion of property. (39.536904, -107.663099)



View W towards boundary and where new sprinkler connections and side roll are being installed.



View NW



View S along community garden plot.

SIGNATURES

Note: This report is a record of conditions observed on the property (or part of the property) at the time of monitoring. The absence in this report of any record of observed prohibited uses or other violations that may have occurred on the property prior to the monitoring visit does not waive the Trust's right to enforce against any such violations at a later date. Should the Trust detect a prohibited use or violation in the future, the Trust may still exercise its rights to enforce the conservation easement.

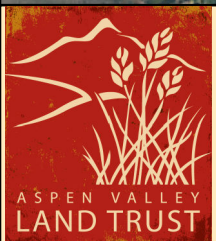
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Erickson".

David Erickson
Stewardship Director

SILT RIVER PRESERVE



Property boundary depicted is an approximate representation and no substitute for a survey



2018 Ground Monitoring Photo Point Map

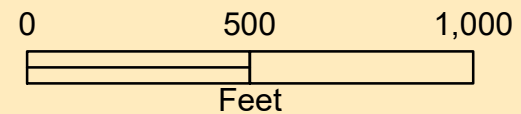
LEGEND



PROPERTY BOUNDARY

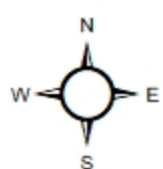


2018 MONITORING
PHOTO POINT



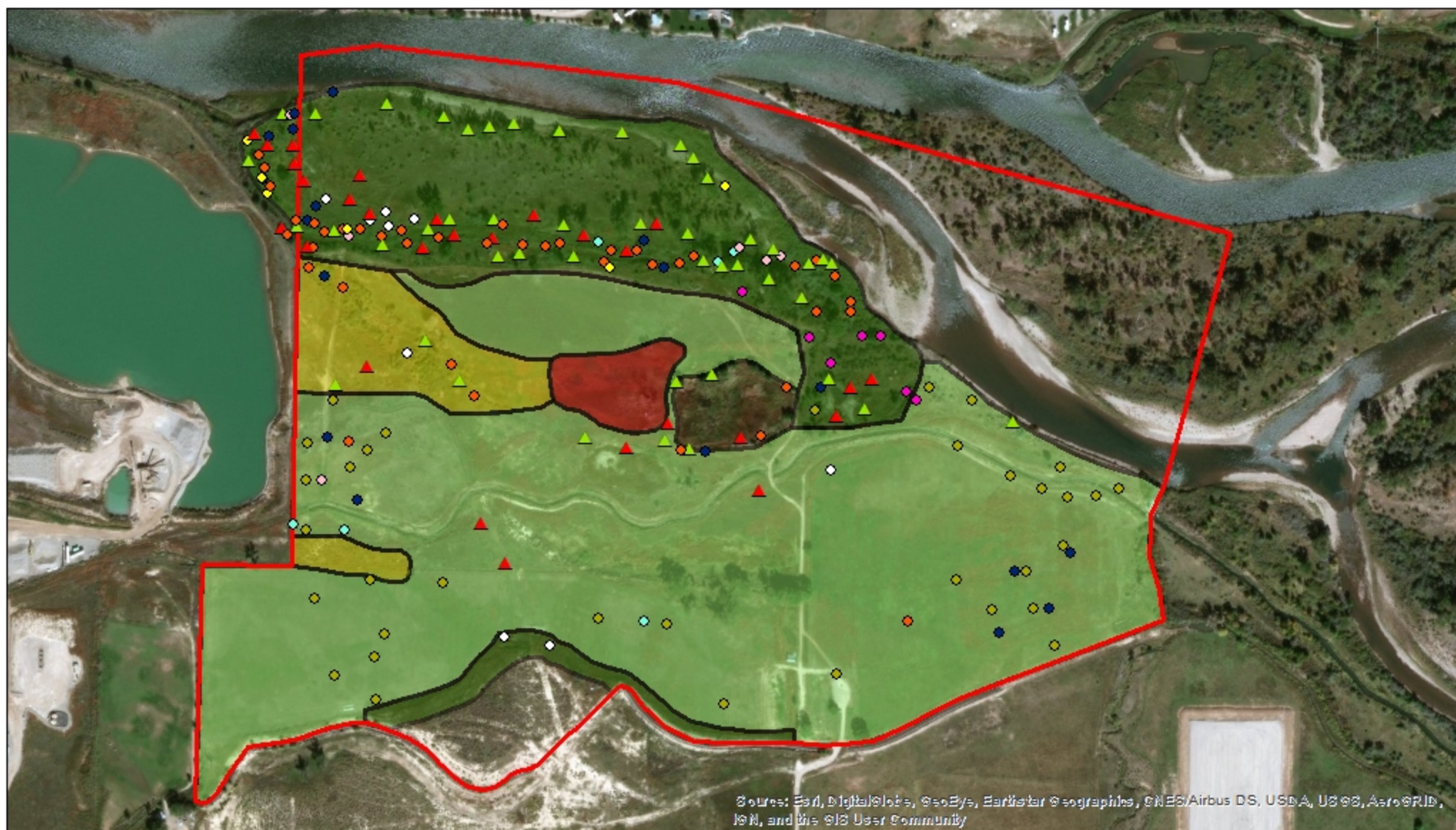
BASEMAP: USDA NAIP 2017





Silt River Preserve Noxious Weeds

Map: Jonathan Rose, South Side Conservation district
June 2018



Noxious Weeds

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Bull Thistle | Hoary Cress | Oxeye Daisy |
| Canada Thistle | Houndstongue | Scotch Thistle |
| Common Tansy | Musk Thistle | Russian Olive |
| | | Salt Cedar |

Russian Knapweed Percent Cover

- | | |
|--|---------|
| | 1-10% |
| | 10-25% |
| | 25-50% |
| | 50-100% |

