

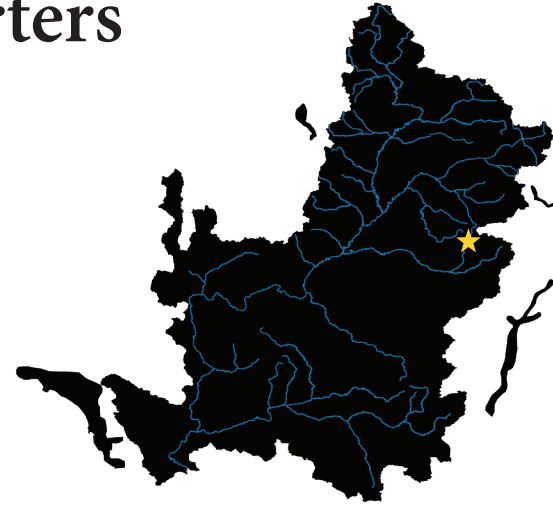
**Fred Phillips Consulting
Newsletter**

May 2023



New Location for FPC World Headquarters

Fred Phillips Consulting is now headquartered near Ouray, Colorado, in the San Juan Mountains along the banks of Uncompahgre River. On our 3 acre office campus we are restoring and creating riparian habitat, growing native restoration hay, huckleberries, potatoes, and soon organic eggs. In the future we hope to feature tours, do workshops and share our restoration knowledge with others. We've put our design/build skills to work here to serve as an example of the work we do throughout the western United States.



FPC's location along the Uncompahgre River in the Colorado River Watershed



Native Polinator and Grassland Flood Cells - Before



Native Polinator and Grassland Flood Cells - After



The FPC Office



Native Polinator and Grassland Flood Cells at FPC



FPC Employee Introduction: *Mike James*

Mike has worked as the foreman for FPC for 4 years, managing and supervising crews for seed collection and restoration implementation. Mike is based out of Tuba City, traveling to sites across Arizona, Wyoming and Colorado to support restoration work. He particularly appreciates being able to work on restoring the riparian environment of Tsegi Canyon on the Navajo Nation.

Originally from Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Mike has lived in various parts of Arizona, and he has gained an appreciation for both mountain and

desert landscapes. Before entering the restoration world, Mike ran his own pool maintenance business in Phoenix for 25 years. He enjoyed running his own business while in Phoenix, but he now appreciates being able to work in a field that protects rivers and conserves water.

When he is not working in the dirt or running crews in the backcountry, Mike spends his time playing music and enjoying the outdoors. Mike is very proud of his two daughters and enjoys visiting them when he can.



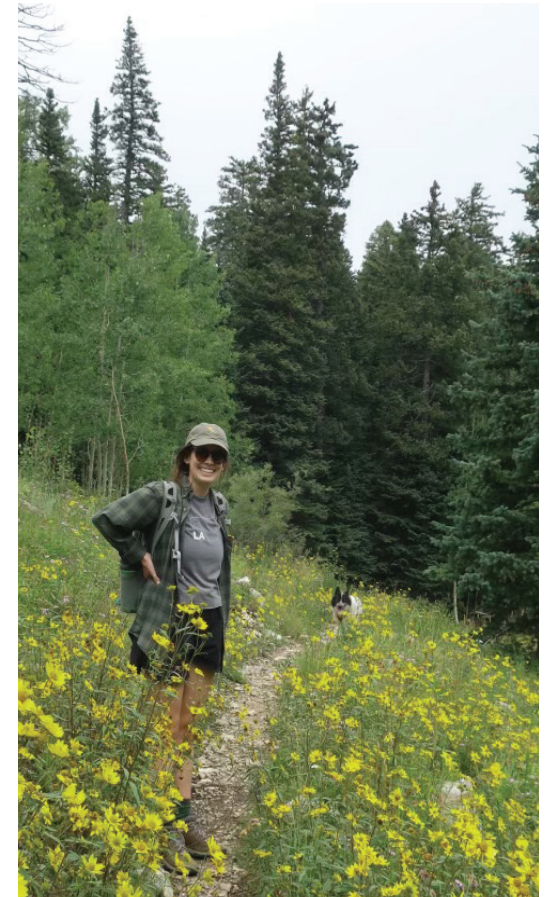
FPC Employee Introduction: *Emily Ontiveros*

Emily Ontiveros joined FPC as the Restoration Program Manager in October 2022, moving to work in the office in Ridgway from Albuquerque, New Mexico with her partner Taylor, their dog, and their cat.

Emily grew up in a small town in Southern California, spending plenty of time outdoors in both the San Gabriel Mountains and the Mojave Desert. After working with Tribes and state agencies on resource and water issues, Emily's interests in working with rural communities and the critical role of water in the west led her to graduate school at University of New Mexico's Master of Landscape Architecture program, where she graduated in May 2022. For her thesis project, Emily researched management and infrastructure of the Lower Colorado River and designed a wetland to treat agricultural runoff in the Imperial Valley.

Emily's interests in riparian ecosystems and connecting communities to water makes FPC the perfect place for her to dig deep and expand her design and field knowledge. She's looking forward to the field work that the spring season will bring.

Emily also enjoys hiking, snowshoeing, painting, reading, and sitting on the porch in the sun.



One of Emily's landscape paintings



Cocopah Border 2025 Riparian Restoration

Emily Ontiveros, Restoration Program Manager

FPC, in collaboration with George Cathey at Oxbow Ecological Engineering, recently wrapped up the design for a project with the Cocopah Tribe. The Border 2025 Riparian Restoration Project sits on Cocopah Tribal lands along the Colorado River, where a city effluent outlet releases wastewater into the river.

FPC and Oxbow developed a design which reroutes the wastewater flows through a channel and series of beaver ponds before returning to the river. This sequence creates a variety of habitat types, from wetland to mesquite upland, and improves the quality of the water entering the river. One of the ponds provides opportunities for the Tribe to someday support native fish propagation. Other features include an entry plaza, a beach area called Cocopah Cove, an

Elder's Village, and a scenic overlook.

The Cocopah Tribe's Environmental Director, Jen Alspach, has provided great guidance and support for the project. We're looking forward to continuing to work with her and hopefully seeing this project come to fruition in the coming years.

To continue this project and get started on another, we will be taking a few trips on another, we will be taking a few trips down to Yuma this spring. We will get to visit some of the existing Cocopah and other Lower River projects



Jen Alspach
Cocopah Tribe Environmental Director



George Cathey
Oxbow Ecological Engineering



Conceptual Planting Design



Channel & Overburden Area Planting Section



Restoration in Our Backyard: The Uncompahgre Multibenefit Project

Emily Ontiveros, Restoration Program Manager

FPC is excited to be working on a project that is close to home, to say the least. With the support and collaboration of American Rivers, the Colorado River Water District, Natural Channel Design and a handful of landowners who are neighbors to the FPC homebase, we have embarked on the Uncompahgre Multibenefit Project. The project aims to improve the Ward Irrigation Ditch and its headgate, along with the riparian health of the Uncompahgre River.

The Upper Uncompahgre River is one of the most impaired tributaries of the Colorado, almost devoid of aquatic life as a result of upstream impacts from mine tailings.



In November 2022, the project began with a couple days of field work, with Natural Channel Design travelling from Flagstaff and FPC staff travelling several hundred feet from our office door.

FPC has been meeting with the neighbors in the project area, hearing their ideas and wishes for their own properties, and exploring the opportunities for more habitat creation through native grasses and pollinator species. Our concept designs lay out restoration of 31.6 acres of riparian corridor and upper floodplain.

Natural Channel Design has been working on ways to support the river, which is laterally unstable in some reaches and incised in others, and

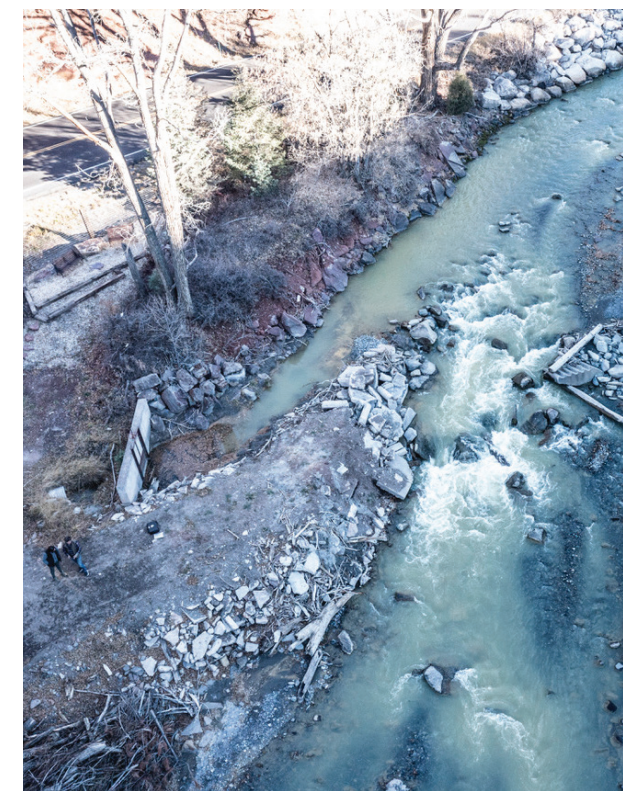
reconnect to the floodplain in ways that improve riparian health and keep everyone's homes safe in times of high flow. We are also aiming to improve water quality and create aquatic habitat for when fish someday return to this

We have applied for final design and implementation funding for this project, with major help and guidance from Fay Hartman and Hannah Holm at American Rivers, as well as Holly Loff at Sage Grant Writing. We are grateful to have received letters of support from Trout Unlimited, the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership, Ouray County, and the Bureau of Land Management. The collaboration on this project has been very rewarding, and we're looking forward to making it happen!

The Ward Water Group is working on raising funds to meet the match required in the grant application. If you feel inclined to support the project, please visit [the gofundme page for River Restoration and Irrigation Improvements on the Uncompahgre River.](#)



Ward Irrigation Ditch Headgate



Drone Photo of Ward Irrigation Ditch Diversion



Riparian and Upper Floodplain Restoration Areas



Upcoming Projects

Emily Ontiveros, Restoration Program Manager

FPC has a full schedule for the spring and summer, heading out to do field work in Yuma, Ojai, the Navajo Nation, and possibly Utah and Oregon. We have a great spread of projects, from continuing to work with Tribes in the Colorado Basin to some new connections with ranch owners interested in restoration.

We will be continuing to work on improving riparian health, planting native

and first food species, creating a variety of habitats, and moving towards a future of beautiful, functioning ecosystems.

Thanks, as always, to our partners who share their expertise on geomorphology, ecology, and Indigenous and cultural knowledge. We are looking forward to continuing to collaborate and make things happen in 2023.

