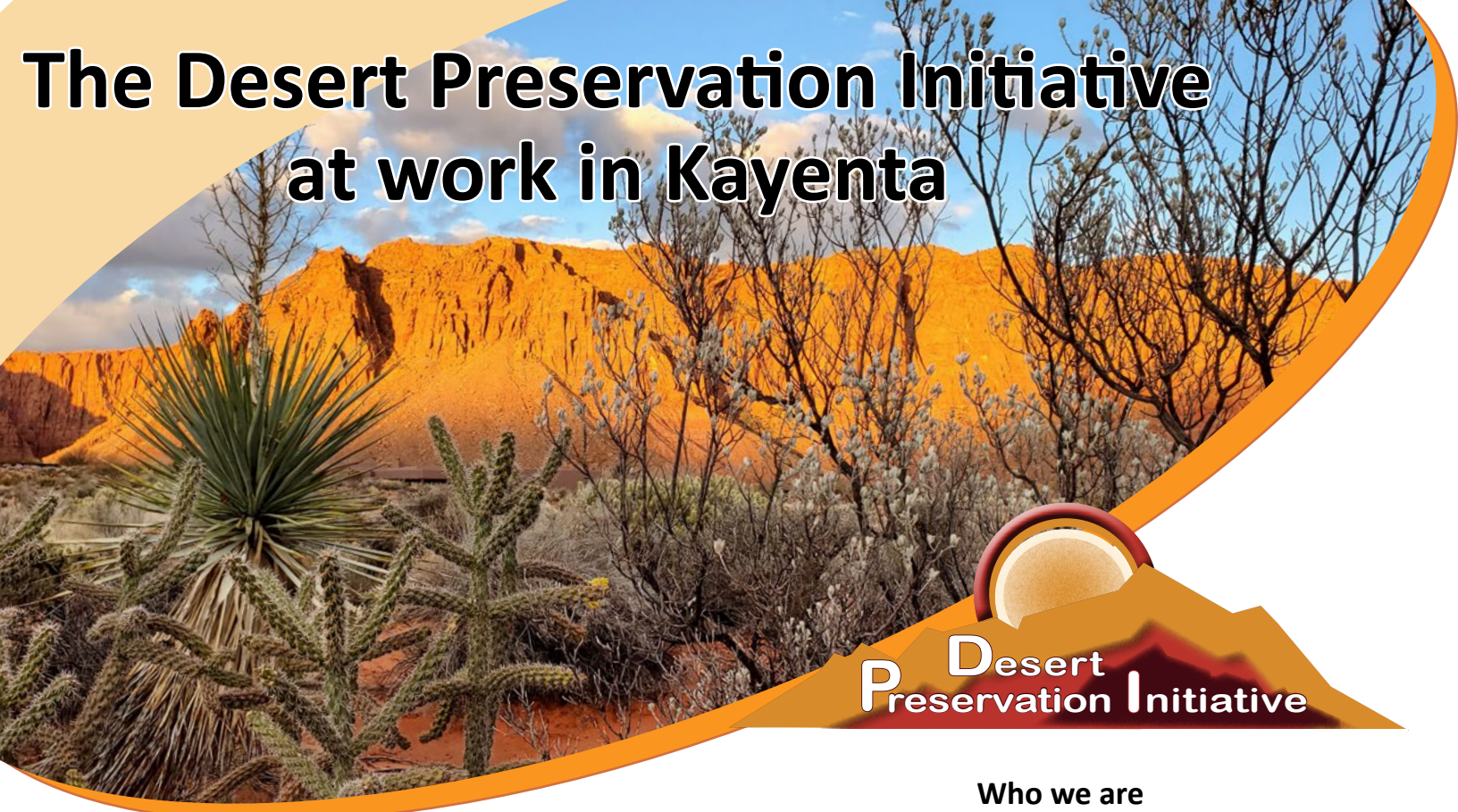


The Desert Preservation Initiative at work in Kayenta



Our mission: Review, Restore, Preserve

The driving mission of the Desert Preservation Initiative is to restore native ecosystems using science-based methods to create a sustainable future for the health and beauty of our shared environment.

What this means, in practice, is that we seek to identify invasive species, plants classified as noxious weeds, that are harmful to natural habitats or animals. Typically, these plants grow aggressively and multiply quickly without natural controls. The longer they are left unchecked, the greater the damage they can create and the more expensive and difficult it is to control their spread.

To act now and monitor going forward will preserve this wondrous landscape for future generations.

Critical to supporting this effort are our educational and advocacy goals--sharing information about what it takes to minimize erosion and restore and revegetate damaged areas and working to inspire our neighbors and area partners to recognize the importance of these issues and join us in addressing them.

Why is this important?

Value, beauty, accessibility, stewardship, safety

The value of our landscape is both personal and practical. Your opportunities to be outdoors, enjoying the beauty of the area by walking, hiking, biking or simply sitting on your patio watching the kaleidoscope of the ever-changing skies, are enhanced by our stewardship of the land. Trails are accessible. Native plants prosper. Local animals entertain us with their endless antics. And, with strategic planning, these same benefits will be available to our children and grandchildren.

Beyond these advantages, the work of DPI is intensely practical. Invasive species, particularly tamarisk, pose a clear fire danger and often create erosion problems. Addressing these concerns helps to support property values directly through risk management.



Who we are

We are group of volunteers dedicated to identifying, managing, and removing invasive species and restoring the native landscape. While we recognize that the native species present today are not necessarily the same as those that were here 200 years ago, we work to rebuild the native habitat with an eye to what has been present historically.



Above, DPI President Chuck Warren meets with developer Terry Marten, third from left, to discuss creating a plant nursery for revegetation.

Far left, a tamarisk fire along the Santa Clara River. Tamarisks are highly flammable, especially when they are green. Photo by Maysen Fielding, St. George News / STGnews.com



Internationally recognized botanist Dr. Terrence Walters is leading the creation of a database of invasive plants.



Tamarisks are among the most harmful invasive plants in the local area, causing erosion problems, producing salt that kills other plants, and blocking trails.



Revegetation is a critical step in repair and restoration. Here, creosote seedlings.

What we do

The first step is review. DPI works with property owners to determine if invasives are present and what problems might arise without corrective action.

How we do it

Based on that property review, DPI then works with property owners to design a plan to **repair and restore** the affected area. This might involve removal of invasive species, such as tamarisk, as well as creating a revegetation plan to bring in native plants that will thrive and address any erosion concerns, with the ultimate aim of maintaining and preserving the repaired landscape.

Locally, DPI works alongside Kayenta's Planting and Landscaping Committee and collaborates with area, regional, and national experts in providing scientifically based recommendations for this work. The work of repair and restoration may be performed by homeowners, DPI volunteers and/or with the assistance of local landscapers. DPI secures direct permission from property owners before any work by its volunteers takes place. Similarly, identifying invasive plants for removal before construction can help new homeowners address problems more easily and inexpensively than might otherwise be possible.

DPI regularly consults with the Wildland Fire Coordinator of the Santa Clara/Ivins Fire Department, the Washington County Noxious Weed Control Department, and the Washington County Water Conservancy, as well as with Kayenta residents who have a professional background in these areas.

In addition, DPI has researched and compiled a list of successful projects in this region in order to draw on the best thinking and best practices of others involved in similar restoration and revegetation projects. We, in turn, offer to share our expertise and consult with other groups wishing to address the problems caused by invasive species in similar situations.

First steps, long-term impact

The first phase of our work is to manage and remove noxious weeds in the Kayenta area of Ivins, Utah, as a laboratory/demonstration project to enable and inspire future environmental repair by like-minded citizens.

With the formation of DPI as a non-profit, we have begun gathering permission from landowners, particularly those whose property extends into the Kayenta Wash, to begin removal of the large number of tamarisks there. We are also planning to establish a nursery to grow plants for revegetation that are particularly suited to the area.

DPI consults with local and regional experts on land and risk management, working to create a model for others who wish to launch desert preservation initiatives in their locale.

Won't you join us?

If you are interested in learning more, volunteering, or having a review of invasive plants on your property, please contact Chuck Warren, president, (chuckwarren222@gmail.com) or Dan Beck, volunteer coordinator (danbeck2@me.com).

Dedicated to value, beauty, accessibility, stewardship, safety

