



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

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Corps of Engineers, Local Partners to Spray Invasive Vegetation at O.C. Fisher Lake

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District is partnering with the Upper Colorado River Authority, San Angelo State University, State Soil & Water Conservation Board, City of San Angelo and Texas Parks and Wildlife to continue work on the Ecosystem Restoration project at OC Fisher Lake.

The ecosystem has been severely degraded by invasive vegetation and declining lake levels. The first species to be addressed this past spring was willow baccharis covering over 1600 acres. The next area of work is to address control of 1300 acres of salt cedar in the lake basin. Although the area would have been submerged by the target conservation pool of the lake, prolonged low lake levels have allowed the salt cedar to proliferate and choke out most native vegetation. Salt cedar also impacts water quality and consumes up to 200 gallons of water per plant per day. The salt cedar will be addressed by aerial application of herbicide via helicopter. This joint effort between the cooperative agencies is part of a multi-year work plan to restore more balance and function to the habitats in the lake area. Goals of the project are to increase the quantity and quality of riverine habitat, riparian woodland habitat, and lacustrine habitat, as well as increased stream flow and ground water levels.

Spraying for salt cedar will begin on Sept. 4 and be completed by Sept. 15, pending favorable weather conditions. Application will start adjacent to San Angelo State Park on the 4th, moving to more remote regions of the lake. San Angelo State Park will close some facilities and a portion of its trails network during the first 3 days of the application period. For a more complete listing of closures, please contact the San Angelo State park at 325-949-8935.

For further information about this project, please contact the Corps of Engineers Project Manager Brady Dempsey at 254-622-3332, or email brady.dempsey@usace.army.mil. Or you may contact UCRA Project Manager Scott McWilliams at 325-655-0565.

About the Fort Worth District : The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was established in 1950. The District is responsible for water resources development in two-thirds of Texas, and military design and construction in Texas and parts of Louisiana and New Mexico. Visit the Fort Worth District web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil.