

**Pecos River Non-Native Phreatophyte
Management Program Update**

Restoration-

Fire- BLM completed a prescribed burn Winter 2005 and Spring 2006, covering approximately 21 river miles from the Texas/NM state line up to McDonald crossing. There were some plants that were in high waters (CID release) that will be addressed this fall as to re-firing. Areas that were successful in burning were estimated at 70-85 percent in being removed.

Extraction- Total removal of treated Salt cedar has occurred in several locations within the project.

Avalon Reservoir to Calloway Drive- Approximately 110 acres were extracted, piled, and burned. This occurred in Fall 2005.

Dark Canyon to Six Mile Dam- Approximately 130 acres were extracted, piled, and burned. This occurred in Fall 2005 and Spring 2006.

Approximately 30 acres near Malaga were extracted, piled, and burned in Fall 2005.

Puerto de Luna to Santa Rosa- This stretch is "in process" with extraction, piling, and burning. There are approximately 100 acres of material being removed.

Mulching- Downing of material by mulching has occurred in several locations within the project.

Chaves County- Approximately 150 acres were mulched.

Eddy County- East of Artesia, South of HWY 82 will have mulching occurring 190 acres beginning end of May 2006. This area will also have removal along the Keiser Channel, with material being cut at ground level and removed off of the channel's edge. The stump will remain in the ground.

Tree planting- Placement of native trees has occurred in areas where Salt cedar removal has occurred. Tree species were: Cottonwood, NM Olive, Desert willow, Coyote willow, Black willow, and Netleaf hackberry.

Chaves County- Eight groves of 35 trees (each grove is approx. one acre) were placed.

Avalon to Calloway Drive- Approximately 300 trees were planted near the larger permanent pool (directly behind Ford Motor Company) through the NRCS Plant Materials Center. This was done to determine best depth, best technique, etc.

Dark Canyon to Six Mile Dam- Approximately 100 trees were planted most in small groves (5 plants or less).

Malaga- A one acre grove of 35 trees was planted in this area.

Puerto de Luna to Santa Rosa- "in process" trees will be planted. These areas are in WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project) contracts and will be planted according to NRCS specifications.

Grass Seeding- Grass seeding has occurred in areas where removal of Salt cedar has occurred. Most grass mix was: Plains bristle, Sand dropseed, Alkali Sacaton, Bluestem (spp.)

Avalon to Calloway Drive- "in process" two small areas (approx. 5 acres) will be seeded through WHIP contracts.

Dark Canyon to Six Mile Dam- Approximately 30 acres of seeding has taken place along embankments around Six Mile Dam.

Malaga- Approximately 30 acres were seeded.

Chaves County- Approximately 150 acres were seeded.

Puerto de Luna to Santa Rosa- Areas cleared will be seeded through the WHIP contracts following NRCS specifications.

Other-

Bingaman funds- These funds will be utilized in the Artesia site for a maximum of 500 acres of removal (mulching and cut and clear off of Keiser Channel).

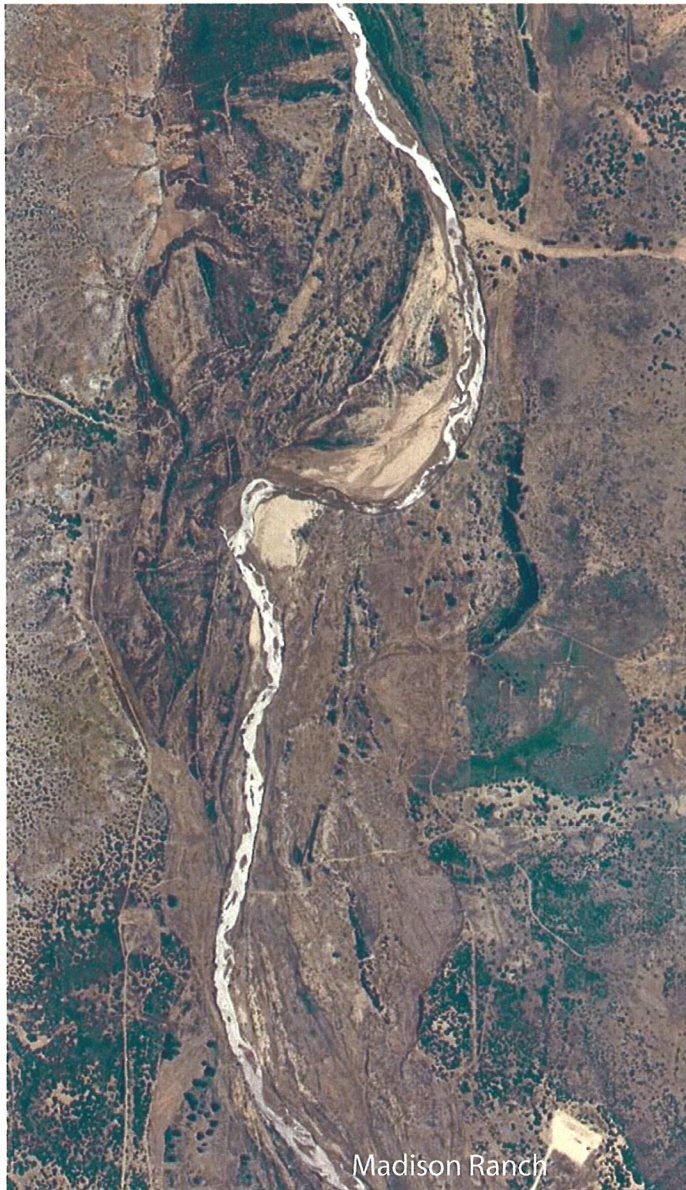
There are two demonstration sites; one behind Ford Motor Company (Avalon to Calloway) and one in Santa Rosa where Interstate 40 goes across the Pecos River. These areas will (or have had) Salt cedar removed, grass seeding/transplantings, and tree plantings.

We have "in progress" contract to continue efforts from Six Mile Dam south toward McDonald crossing (funding permitting), which should begin in the late summer.

BLM has purchased grass seed that will be spread in the TX/NM State line prescribed burn area this fall.

BLM has also been removing Salt cedar along the Delaware River by extracting, piling, burning, and following up with spot spraying, restoration with grass seeding, and tree planting.

Pecos River Banks Analysis Utilizing GIS



2005 Digital Orthoquad



1998 Digital Orthoquad

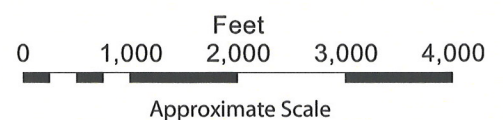
Geographical Information Systems (GIS) will be utilized to analyze the changes in the banks along the Pecos River. Currently, full digital orthoquad (DOQQ) coverage of the Pecos River area in the southeastern corner of New Mexico is available in black and white for 1998 and in color for 2005, as shown above. DOQQ coverage for 2006 is tentatively set to be available at the end of 2006.

The DOQQ coverage of the river will be viewed and analyzed for the following purposes:

- To qualitatively assess changes in the vegetation and the shape of the banks along the river
- To quantitatively assess the difference in the vegetation and erosion of the river banks as compared to previous years, which will result in measured areas of change
- To visually identify areas of salt cedar clearing along the Pecos River, and
- To compare actual field measurements of the bank areas to DOQQ coverage of the same areas.

Initially, the DOQQ coverage will be utilized for the above-mentioned purposes; however, aerial coverage at a larger scale may be required to provide more detail. Satellite coverage and/or additional aerial photography at a larger scale may be obtained to provide additional detail. The additional coverage may be obtained for the entire river area or for specific areas where bank erosion has been identified and more analysis is deemed necessary.

Note: DOQQ is Eight Mile Draw_nw



Union Calendar No. 190

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2720

[Report No. 109-341, Part I]

To further the purposes of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 by directing the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to carry out an assessment and demonstration program to control salt cedar and Russian olive, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 2005

Mr. PEARCE (for himself, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mrs. CUBIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

DECEMBER 13, 2005

Reported from the Committee on Resources

DECEMBER 13, 2005

Additional sponsors: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico and Ms. HERSETH

DECEMBER 13, 2005

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To further the purposes of the Reclamation Projects Author-

ization and Adjustment Act of 1992 by directing the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to carry out an assessment and demonstration program to control salt cedar and Russian olive, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Salt Cedar and Rus-

5 sian Olive Control Demonstration Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SALT CEDAR AND RUSSIAN OLIVE CONTROL DEM-**
7 **ONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

8 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of the Interior
9 (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”), acting
10 through the Commissioner of Reclamation and the Direc-
11 tor of the United States Geological Survey and in coopera-
12 tion with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary
13 of Defense, shall carry out a salt cedar (*Tamarix* spp) and
14 Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) assessment and
15 demonstration program—

16 (1) to assess the extent of the infestation by
17 salt cedar and Russian olive trees in the western
18 United States;

19 (2) to demonstrate strategic solutions for—

20 (A) the long-term management of salt
21 cedar and Russian olive trees; and

1 (B) the reestablishment of native vegeta-
2 tion; and

3 (3) to assess economic means to dispose of bio-
4 mass created as a result of removal of salt cedar and
5 Russian olive trees.

6 (b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—As soon
7 as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the
8 Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall enter into
9 a memorandum of understanding providing for the admin-
10 istration of the program established under subsection (a).

11 (c) ASSESSMENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
13 the date on which funds are made available to carry
14 out this Act, the Secretary shall complete an assess-
15 ment of the extent of salt cedar and Russian olive
16 infestation on public and private land in the western
17 United States.

18 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In addition to describing
19 the acreage of and severity of infestation by salt
20 cedar and Russian olive trees in the western United
21 States, the assessment shall—

22 (A) consider existing research on methods
23 to control salt cedar and Russian olive trees;

1 (B) consider the feasibility of reducing
2 water consumption by salt cedar and Russian
3 olive trees;

4 (C) consider methods of and challenges as-
5 sociated with the revegetation or restoration of
6 infested land; and

7 (D) estimate the costs of destruction of
8 salt cedar and Russian olive trees, related bio-
9 mass removal, and revegetation or restoration
10 and maintenance of the infested land.

11 (3) REPORT.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
13 submit to the Committee on Energy and Nat-
14 ural Resources and the Committee on Agri-
15 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate
16 and the Committee on Resources and the Com-
17 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives a report that includes the results of
19 the assessment conducted under paragraph (1).

20 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
21 under subparagraph (A) shall identify—

22 (i) long-term management and fund-
23 ing strategies identified under subsection

24 (d) that could be implemented by Federal,
25 State, tribal, and private land managers

1 and owners to address the infestation by
2 salt cedar and Russian olive;

3 (ii) any deficiencies in the assessment
4 or areas for additional study; and

5 (iii) any field demonstrations that
6 would be useful in the effort to control salt
7 cedar and Russian olive.

8 (d) LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall identify
10 and document long-term management and funding
11 strategies that—

12 (A) could be implemented by Federal,
13 State, tribal, and private land managers in ad-
14 dressing infestation by salt cedar and Russian
15 olive trees; and

16 (B) should be tested as components of
17 demonstration projects under subsection (e).

18 (2) GRANTS.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
20 provide grants to eligible entities to provide
21 technical experience, support, and recommenda-
22 tions relating to the identification and docu-
23 mentation of long-term management and fund-
24 ing strategies under paragraph (1).

1 (B) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Institutions of
2 higher education and nonprofit organizations
3 with an established background and expertise in
4 the public policy issues associated with the con-
5 trol of salt cedar and Russian olive trees shall
6 be eligible for a grant under subparagraph (A).

7 (C) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a
8 grant provided under subparagraph (A) shall be
9 not less than \$250,000.

10 (e) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
12 after the date on which funds are made available to
13 carry out this Act, the Secretary shall establish a
14 program that selects and funds not less than 5
15 projects proposed by and implemented in collabora-
16 tion with Federal agencies, units of State and local
17 government, national laboratories, Indian tribes, in-
18 stitutions of higher education, individuals, organiza-
19 tions, or soil and water conservation districts to
20 demonstrate and evaluate the most effective methods
21 of controlling salt cedar and Russian olive trees.

22 (2) PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—The demonstra-
23 tion projects under paragraph (1) shall—

1 (A) be carried out over a time period and
2 to a scale designed to fully assess long-term
3 management strategies;

4 (B) implement salt cedar or Russian olive
5 tree control using 1 or more methods for each
6 project in order to assess the full range of con-
7 trol methods, including—

8 (i) airborne application of herbicides;

9 (ii) mechanical removal; and

10 (iii) biocontrol methods, such as the
11 use of goats or insects;

12 (C) individually or in conjunction with
13 other demonstration projects, assess the effects
14 of and obstacles to combining multiple control
15 methods and determine optimal combinations of
16 control methods;

17 (D) assess soil conditions resulting from
18 salt cedar and Russian olive tree infestation
19 and means to revitalize soils;

20 (E) define and implement appropriate final
21 vegetative states and optimal revegetation
22 methods, with preference for self-maintaining
23 vegetative states and native vegetation, and tak-
24 ing into consideration downstream impacts,
25 wildfire potential, and water savings;

1 (F) identify methods for preventing the re-
2 growth and reintroduction of salt cedar and
3 Russian olive trees;

4 (G) monitor and document any water sav-
5 ings from the control of salt cedar and Russian
6 olive trees, including impacts to both ground-
7 water and surface water;

8 (H) assess wildfire activity and manage-
9 ment strategies;

10 (I) assess changes in wildlife habitat;

11 (J) determine conditions under which re-
12 moval of biomass is appropriate (including opti-
13 mal methods for the disposal or use of bio-
14 mass); and

15 (K) assess economic and other impacts as-
16 sociated with control methods and the restora-
17 tion and maintenance of land.

18 (f) DISPOSITION OF BIOMASS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
20 the date on which funds are made available to carry
21 out this Act, the Secretary, in cooperation with the
22 Secretary of Agriculture, shall complete an analysis
23 of economic means to use or dispose of biomass cre-
24 ated as a result of removal of salt cedar and Russian
25 olive trees.

1 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The analysis shall—

2 (A) determine conditions under which re-
3 moval of biomass is economically viable;

4 (B) consider and build upon existing re-
5 search by the Department of Agriculture and
6 other agencies on beneficial uses of salt cedar
7 and Russian olive tree fiber; and

8 (C) consider economic development oppor-
9 tunities, including manufacture of wood prod-
10 ucts using biomass resulting from demonstra-
11 tion projects under subsection (e) as a means of
12 defraying costs of control.

13 (g) COSTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to projects and
15 activities carried out under this Act—

16 (A) the assessment under subsection (e)
17 shall be carried out at a cost of not more than
18 \$4,000,000;

19 (B) the identification and documentation
20 of long-term management strategies under sub-
21 section (d)(1) and the provision of grants under
22 subsection (d)(2) shall be carried out at a cost
23 of not more than \$2,000,000;

24 (C) each demonstration project under sub-
25 section (e) shall be carried out at a Federal cost

1 of not more than \$7,000,000 (including costs of
2 planning, design, implementation, maintenance,
3 and monitoring); and

4 (D) the analysis under subsection (f) shall
5 be carried out at a cost of not more than
6 \$3,000,000.

7 (2) COST-SHARING.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The assessment under
9 subsection (c), the identification and docu-
10 mentation of long-term management strategies
11 under subsection (d), a demonstration project
12 or portion of a demonstration project under
13 subsection (e) that is carried out on Federal
14 land, and the analysis under subsection (f) shall
15 be carried out at full Federal expense.

16 (B) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS CARRIED
17 OUT ON NON-FEDERAL LAND.—

18 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share
19 of the costs of any demonstration project
20 funded under subsection (e) that is not
21 carried out on Federal land shall not ex-
22 ceed 75 percent.

23 (ii) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL
24 SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the
25 costs of a demonstration project that is not

1 carried out on Federal land may be pro-
2 vided in the form of in-kind contributions,
3 including services provided by a State
4 agency or any other public or private part-
5 ner.

6 (h) COOPERATION.—In carrying out the assessment
7 under subsection (e), the demonstration projects under
8 subsection (e), and the analysis under subsection (f), the
9 Secretary shall cooperate with and use the expertise of
10 Federal agencies and the other entities specified in sub-
11 section (e)(1) that are actively conducting research on or
12 implementing salt cedar and Russian olive tree control ac-
13 tivities.

14 (i) INDEPENDENT REVIEW.—The Secretary shall
15 subject to independent review—

16 (1) the assessment under subsection (e);

17 (2) the identification and documentation of
18 long-term management strategies under subsection
19 (d);

20 (3) the demonstration projects under subsection
21 (e); and

22 (4) the analysis under subsection (f).

23 (j) REPORTING.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit
25 to Congress an annual report that describes the re-

1 sults of carrying out this Act, including a synopsis
2 of any independent review under subsection (i) and
3 details of the manner and purposes for which funds
4 are expended.

5 (2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Secretary shall fa-
6 cilitate public access to all information that results
7 from carrying out this Act.

8 (k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
10 appropriated to carry out this Act—

11 (A) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2006; and

12 (B) \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years
13 2007 through 2010.

14 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more 15
15 percent of amounts made available under paragraph
16 (1) shall be used to pay the administrative costs of
17 carrying out the program established under sub-
18 section (a).

19 (l) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—This Act and the
20 authority provided by this Act terminate on the date that
21 is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.