South Fork Republican River Restoration I

History
• Similar work in Co and NE
• Started in October 2015, submitted NAWCA grant in partnership with Cheyenne County
• Grant awarded in ~May 2016

Goals
• Improve wildlife habitat
• Open canopy to provide waterfowl roosting habitat and hunting opportunities
• Control encroachment of saltcedars and Russian Olive
• Improve the health of the river system
• Restore surface and ground water flows in the Republican River

How
• Removal of Saltcedar, Russian olive (and Eastern redcedar)
South Fork Republican River Restoration

Private land
- 75% cost share
- Advertised by word of mouth, local paper, mailings, and meetings
South Fork Republican River Restoration I

Problems
• People like trees
• Turkeys eat the seed
• Windbreaks
• Contractor issues

Russian Olive and Saltcedar Management
South Fork Republican River Restoration

When controlling Russian olive and saltcedar, any control method used requires continual upkeep. This includes suppression of new seed, as well as stump and root resprouts. Russian olive seeds can survive in the soil for years. For at least 8 years following the initial treatment, monitoring and control of resprouts is required.

Saroen 3A was chosen for this project, as it provides control of woody species and is used for use in areas near aquatic environments. Saroen 3A is a trialkylamine, meaning it is a salt solution that is soluble in water and degrades with sunlight. The contractor is cutting-down the trees and immediately spraying Saroen 3A on the stumps.

Spot Spraying
For at least 3 years following the initial treatment, monitoring and control of resprouts is required.

For fall/summer, the herbicide can be applied June through early October when the plants are actively growing. With September being the most effective. We suggest using a mixed solution of Vistan or Garlon 3A and Milestone. Be sure to check the product label for proper mixing rates and effects on desirable plant species.

Vistan at 3 gallons/acre + 7 ounces Milestone/acre = 30% surfactant + 2% dye

25 gal tank mix Vistan + 1.56% Milestone + 11% surfactant + 1.6% dye

It is suggested to wait at least 6 months after the initial cutting to spray resprouts. This time allows the plants to grow a larger leaf area for better intake of the chemical. The resprouts should be at least 3"-4" tall. September and October are known to be the most effective time to spray resprouts. The addition of Milestone provides better control and can be used to spray thistles. Adding a blue dye is recommended to view coverage on sprayed plants.

Wildlife
Besides outcompeting native species and reducing groundwater, Russian olive and saltcedar have their negative effects on wildlife. Many wildlife species prefer native vegetation, like Willow or Cottonwood, over Russian olive or saltcedar.

The limited number of open areas and habitat in Western Kansas make rivers an important stopover point during migration. The removal of Russian olive and saltcedar will open up the riparian canopy for waterfowl to better use this area.

Wild turkeys are common along the South Fork Republican River and utilize large Cottonwood trees for nesting. When turkeys nest, they need an open understory beneath the trees. Cottonwoods are favored nest sites, and an understory of Russian olive and saltcedar does not allow young cottonwood trees to establish, and will limit the availability of nest trees in the future. Smaller growing trees in the understory create predator habitat. Russian olive and saltcedar do not create quality nesting habitats. Live growing shrubs, grases and forbs provide nesting help protection and visual cover whereas taller growing shrubs and smaller growing trees, like saltcedar, need removed.
South Fork Republican River Restoration I
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Before

Before

After

After
Estimated 4,000 trees removed on WIHA property
South Fork Republican River Restoration II

Problems

• Contractor issues
• Small NAWCA grant not awarded
Future of project

• Follow up management on completed properties
• Applied for Standard NAWCA with DU
• Have match $ from standard NAWCA
• Secure additional funds

Potential Contractors

Twisted Timber KS & CO, Ranchland Development KS
Quality Timber Products KS, Sundstrom
Thanks to all the partners and contributors

• North American Wetlands Conservation Act
• Kansas Department of Agriculture
• Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism
• Cheyenne County Noxious Weed Department
• Ducks Unlimited
• National Wild Turkey Federation
• Cheyenne County Wildlife, inc.
• Pheasants Forever