

Tamarisk research priorities of land and water managers: results from a USGS partnership meeting

Leanne Hanson¹, Patrick B. Shafroth¹, and Frank D'Erchia²

¹ USGS Fort Collins Science Center, Fort Collins, CO, 80526. pat_shafroth@usgs.gov

² USGS Central Region.

Abstract:

In an effort to identify science and information needs of land and water managers related to the control and management of tamarisk (*Tamarix spp.*) and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), the US Geological Survey (USGS) Central Region hosted a partnership meeting in August 2003 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting provided a forum for stakeholders and partner agencies to discuss what types of research would benefit them the most, to present the capabilities of USGS, and to flesh out potential areas of collaboration. Representatives from three Pueblos, the State of New Mexico, multiple New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the City of Albuquerque, the Southwest Strategy, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Park Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the USGS participated in the meeting. Stakeholders and water resource managers presented current activities and identified research that could enhance their efforts. Agency representatives shared information about specific goals and mandates from their organizations, current management techniques and practices, and current and future needs for controlling tamarisk and Russian-olive and restoring native habitats. USGS scientists presented current research and multidisciplinary capabilities that could be applied to address stakeholder and manager needs. Break-out group discussions focused on five topics: control, distribution mapping, restoration/ revegetation, water salvage, and wildlife. Some of the identified research needs include: improving our understanding of the efficacy of chemical and biological control approaches; resolving issues associated with mapping and modeling the distribution and spread of *Tamarix* at local to national scales; developing protocols and metrics for revegetation and long-term site monitoring; improving our understanding of *Tamarix* effects on water quantity, water quality; and better understanding relationships between wildlife taxa distributions as they relate to patterns of *Tamarix* distribution and abundance. We will present all of the research needs identified during the break-out group discussions, and common themes found through these discussions.