From: "Steve" <wow2@rof.net>
To: <strategies@uc.usbr.gov>
Date: Wed, Jul 27, 2005 10:04 AM
Subject: Please add this and me to your scoping process on Development of Management Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead Under Low Reservoir Conditions

Regional Director
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region
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Tamarisk eradication efforts

Dave Augustine of the U.S. Forest Service presented the biology and history of the water-robbing phreatophyte, noting that it was first imported from central Asia in the 1800s for use as an ornamental plant, to create windbreaks, and to provide stability for erosion-prone stream banks. Augustine, a biologist for the Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands, noted that a single Tamarisk plant can consume up to 200 gallons more water per day than the native vegetation it replaces and can produce up to 250 million seeds a year. They have now spread to cover some 1.5 million acres in the western USA, are moving into Canada, and are blamed for using some 170,000 acre feet more water per year than native plants would have used just in Colorado alone.

They are blamed for lowering water tables, crowding out native vegetation and wildlife habitat, increasing soil salinity and destroying riparian grazing areas. A combination of mechanical cutting, prescribed burns, and herbicide applications are used to control them along the Purgatoire and Cimarron Rivers, he said.

Ken Lair of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation noted...loss of water, water quality, and habitat... They exude "brine" - a salty solution of up to 41,000 parts per million into nearby soil.

Katy Fitzgerald of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, outlined other negative impacts of Tamarisks. Not only do they destroy wildlife habitat, but they are also responsible for altering the structure of rivers and increasing flooding risks. They slow the flow in a river and diminish its ability to do stream restructuring on its own. They produce a heavy fuel load in a river bed and Tamarisk fires burn hotter and create more frequent fires, further damaging other native species.

There is a loss of plant diversity and animal food sources, a loss of visibility which increases predator risk to species like deer, a loss of native vegetative stratification, a decrease in available nesting habitat for species like wild turkeys, and a retention of heat within Tamarisk's vegetation which decreases the ability of many birds to reproduce. They are bad for fish, bad for birds, and bad for the rivers themselves, she said.

...The National Park Service (NPS) uses a combination of chainsaw removal and chemical herbicides an achieves about a 95 percent kill rate. But it is expensive, said Carl Zimmeramn of the NPS.

"You can't afford to wait," Zimmerman said. "The longer you wait, the worse it gets. The cost of chemicals and labor (to remove them) goes up." Zimmerman said the NPS uses no special revegetation techniques. The native vegetation naturally returns on its own.

Cost for removal can vary from about $170 per acre in a project along the Canadian River in New Mexico to $500 per acre plus labor costs a the Bent's Old Fort project to a range between $150 and $300 and acre for mechanical plus follow-up chemical removal.

<http://www.lamardaily.com/Stories/0,1413,121~7979~2938829,00.html> You can't afford to wait...it only gets worse

This one way to help the lower and upper Basin States get more water from the NON-Native "water-robbing phreatophyte" Tamarisks

Thank you, Steve Parmelee, Snowmass, Colorado

Reclamation Seeks Public Comment on Development of Management Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead Under Low Reservoir Conditions
<http://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/detail.cfm?RecordID=6061>
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