

Saltcedar Leaf Beetle Update



Gary Bryant – Watershed Coordinator

Why use such a little Beetle?

This beetle feeds on the saltcedar as a larvae and as an adult.

Although it is small, it reproduces rapidly and defoliates the saltcedar so it reduces transpiration, salt relocation in the plant and seed production.



The previous slide depicts the saltcedar along the Pecos River during August of 2009.

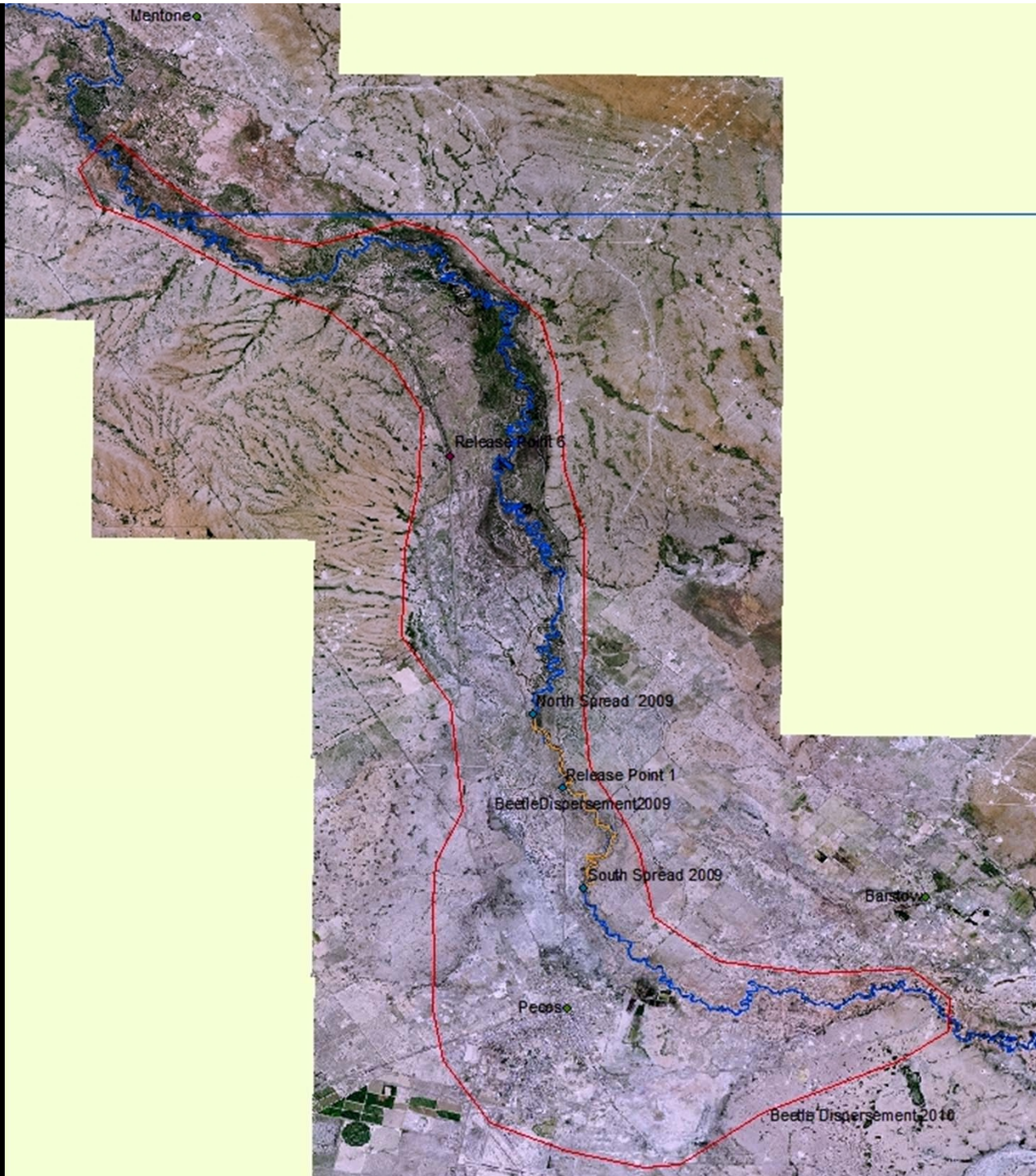
Note: the saltcedar is not dead, just in the process of being defoliated. It will take approximately 6 years of repeated defoliation for the saltcedar to begin dying.



There have been 8 new sites developed thus far during the implementation phase of the Pecos River Watershed Protection Plan.

Some of these are of Crete Beetles and some are Tunisian Beetles.

The new sites developed this year were started with 250 to 25,000 beetles. Beetles were harvested from established sites and relocated to the 8 new sites.



Release site # 1 northeast of Pecos was established in 2006. By the end of 2009, the beetles had moved approximately 2 miles up and down the river. By the end of 2010, the beetles had moved off the river and effected over 14,000 acres of land.

The beetles have moved across Pecos City and moved into Mosquito Lake to the Southeast. They have also spread north to Mentone Bridge and South of Interstate 20.

Due to the concerns from the people working with a subspecies of the Willow Flycatcher and concerns from Mexico, as of now, we will not be moving any beetles this year. We have asked permission to move the beetles between Girvin and Interstate 10 but have yet to receive this approval.

Saltcedar leaf beetle populations started last year will be monitored over the next few years to illustrate their dispersal. Hopefully we will see major expansion of all populations in the 4th year as seen at Release site #1.

For more information on the
saltcedar leaf beetles, please
visit the project website

[http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/
bmp-information](http://pecosbasin.tamu.edu/bmp-information)