

History of the Pecos River Project

September 19, 1997: Initial meeting to discuss alternatives for saltcedar control along the Pecos River in Texas. This meeting was called by TDA and attended by representatives from TAEX, NRCS, Red Bluff Water and Power Control District, Pecos River Compact Commission, American Cyanamid, Local Irrigation Districts, EPA, USFWS, TPWD.

May 29, 1998: Second meeting of the group to discuss a plan for obtaining a Section 24C (local use need) permit for the use of Arsenal® herbicide on saltcedar in Texas. TDA took the lead on developing and submitting to EPA.

June 2-3, 1999: Third meeting of the group. Met and toured the Pecos River and into New Mexico to tour a similar project near Artesia. Group completed plans for submission of Section 24C. Upper Pecos SWCD agreed to sponsor the project.

June 14, 1999: First submission of 24C permit to EPA.

August 23, 1999: Final amended 24C permit submitted to EPA.

September 1999: Made first applications of Arsenal® herbicide to the Pecos River. Treated 27 river miles or 655 acres. Used 4 pints/acre of Arsenal® applied with helicopter for \$190/acre total cost.

April 14, 2000: Conducted saltcedar field day attended by about 250 people. Highlighted the project and toured the applications on the river. Keynote address by Ag Commissioner Susan Combs.

September 2001: Second year applications of Arsenal® herbicide on the Pecos River. Treated 33 river miles or 676 acres at same costs as 1999.

Research and Monitoring efforts currently being conducted by TAMU-TAEX:

- Above-ground water monitoring looking at effects of saltcedar removal on river flow and river water quality (salinity). Initial measurements indicate a slight reduction in salinity after saltcedar treatment.
- Groundwater monitoring to characterize water consumption by saltcedar trees along the river.
- Estimated water savings from applications in 1999 & 2000 are 5,000 to 13,500 ac.ft./year.
- Actual spray costs for 1999 & 2000 were \$252,890.00. This calculates to \$18.73 to \$50.58/ac.ft. of water produced. Current monitoring studies will document this cost.

Pecos River Project Cooperation

Texas Department of Agriculture
Texas Agricultural Extension Service
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Red Bluff Water and Power Control District
Pecos River Compact Commission
USDA Environmental Protection Agency
International Boundary and Water Commission
Texas Water Development Board
Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission
Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management, TAMU
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
BASF, Monsanto Companies
Upper Pecos Soil and Water Conservation District
North Star Helicopters
Loving County Water Improvement District No.1
Reeves County Water Improvement District No.2
Ward County Water Improvement District No.1
Ward County Water Improvement District No.2
Ward County Water Improvement District No.3
Pecos County Water Improvement District No.2
Pecos County Water Improvement District No.3
Trans-Pecos Soil and Water Conservation District
Sand Hills Soil and Water Conservation District
Rio Grande Soil and Water Conservation District
Reeves County
City of Pecos

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