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As a response to the increasingly persistent problem of noxious weeds and invasive species in the Nebraska Panhandle, the Counties of Scotts Bluff, Banner, Kimball, Morrill, Cheyenne, Garden, Deuel, and southern Sioux have joined together to create a partnership that will address this growing need. This group, the High Plains Weed Management Association is charged with the mission of coordinating invasive plant species/noxious weeds education, research and control with various partners/entities concerned with promoting invasive plant-free habitats. Coordinating the efforts of the partners will provide a broad spectrum, innovative approach for improving/rehabilitating local natural habitat. Education, awareness and participation truly encompass what HPWMA hopes to accomplish by providing a resource for landowners, organizations, local municipalities, and authorities in the field of invasive species.

To achieve these goals, High Plains will be beginning project implementation in and along the North Platte River in Scotts Bluff, Morrill and Garden Counties. The target start date for these projects will be August 20, 2008 (subject to change). Phragmites and Salt Cedar will be treated with chemical applications via mechanical equipment including helicopters and/or amphibious machinery. This treatment will be provided at no cost any landowners along the area. In accordance with the Nebraska Noxious Weed laws, this release is meant to formally inform landowners that contractors hired by High Plains Weed Management Association will be spraying for Salt Cedar and Phragmites in and along the North Platte River in the above mentioned Counties.

If you have any questions, would like additional information, or have additional invasive species removal needs please contact Project Manager Dennis Beyer or Field Coordinator Roy Lyles at (308) 633-1264. You can also visit www.hpwma.org to learn more.