



HPWMA Program Description

Program Description and Goals

- 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.
- Targeted species include Phragmites, Salt Cedar and Russian Olive.
- High Plains Weed Management Association are 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.

Key Benefits

- Restoring native habitat and pastureland - with the hopes of enhancement of water quality and quantity - are the key goals of the organization, which it hopes to achieve through these efforts.

Species Focus:

- Phragmites – Priority #1 (total eradication)
- Salt Cedar – Priority #1 (total eradication)
- All Russian Olive (on property) – Priority #2
- Blocks of Russian Olive – Priority #3
- Additional riparian invasive or noxious weeds will be noted and reported to the respective County Weed Control Authority for future control efforts

Landowner Information New Applications/Projects

Contract Length:

- minimum of 10 year contract

Payment Rates:

- 85% cost-share for total eradication of Phragmites and Salt Cedar in riparian areas for Year One
- 85% HPWMA cost-share on actual costs (with Federal Cost-Share Application – need not be approved) on Russian Olive and Eastern Red Cedar control and disposal practices for Year One
- 75% HPWMA cost-share on actual costs (without Federal Cost-Share Application) on Russian Olive and Eastern Red Cedar control and disposal practices for Year One
- 50% HPWMA cost-share on actual Russian Olive and Eastern Red Cedar control and disposal practices for Year Two
- 40% HPWMA cost-share on actual costs Russian Olive and Eastern Red Cedar control and disposal practices for Year Three
- Landowner's cash match cost share portions:
 - Year One 15% of total project costs (with EQIP application; 25% without EQIP application)
 - Year Two, 50% of total project costs
 - Year Three 60% of total project costs
 - Years Four – Ten, 100% of total project costs
 - Landowner failure to pay cost share portions will result in a forfeit of all High Plains WMA assistance and the landowner will be required to cover 100% of project costs.



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Landowner Information Re-growth/Re-treat Projects

Contract Length:

- minimum of 5 year contract

Payment Rates:

- 50% HPWMA cost-share on actual costs on Russian Olive and Eastern Red Cedar control and disposal practices for Year One
 - 40% HPWMA cost-share on actual Russian Olive and Eastern Red Cedar control and disposal practices for Year Two
 - Landowners cost share portions:
 - Year One 50% of total project costs
 - Year Two, 60% of total project costs
 - Years Three – Five 100% of total project costs
 - Landowner failure to to pay cost share portions will result in a forfeit of all High Plains WMA assistance and the landowner will be required to cover 100% of project costs.
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Project Timeline:

- Year 1 – Initial control with removal and disposal (if applicable)
- Year 2 – Evaluation and follow-up spraying (if applicable)
- Year 3 – Evaluation and follow-up spraying (if applicable)
- Years 4-10 – Evaluation and follow-up spraying by landowner 100% (if applicable)

Practices and Techniques:

- Phragmites
 - ▶ Spot spray stands and leave standing (minimum 1 year)
- Salt Cedar
 - ▶ Foliar spray, or basal bark spray trees and leave standing (minimum 3 yrs)
- Russian Olive
 - ▶ Shear trees and spray stumps
 - ▶ Spray and leave standing
 - ▶ Growth less than 3” diameter may be mowed with wet blade (preferred)
 - ▶ Pile trees at least 100 ft. from water-holding channel and dispose piles by chipping or burning (limited number may remain for habitat); landowner retains ownership of chipped piles
- Grazing deferment – recommended practice
- Shrub thicket establishment – recommended practice
- Grass buffer enhancement or establishment – recommended practice

Contractor Process:

- HPWMA will identify and acquire contractors
- Upon satisfactory completion of projects, HPWMA will pay contractors full amount and subsequently bill the landowner for their cost-share portion (if applicable)

Follow-up Management:

- Phragmites – Sites will be evaluated in Year 2 for follow-up spraying needs and spot spraying will be conducted accordingly
- Salt Cedar – Sites will be evaluated in Years 2 and 3 for follow-up spraying needs and spraying of missed trees or seedlings will be conducted accordingly
- Russian Olive – Sites will be evaluated in Years 2 and 3 for follow-up spraying needs and spraying of sprouts and seedlings will be conducted accordingly
- All species – Sites will be evaluated in Years 4-10 for follow-up spraying needs to ensure landowner compliance with Treatment Contract.