



MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT
PHONE: (303) 866-3567

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has conducted an inspection of the mining operation noted below. This report documents observations concerning compliance with the terms of the permit and applicable rules and regulations of the Mined Land Reclamation Board.

MINE NAME: Ted Franciscotti Pit #1	MINE/PROSPECTING ID#: M-2007-006	MINERAL: Sand and gravel	COUNTY: Huerfano
INSPECTION TYPE: Monitoring	INSPECTOR(S): Patrick Lennberg	INSP. DATE: June 24, 2020	INSP. TIME: 09:10
OPERATOR: Fremont Paving & Redi-Mix, Inc.	OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:	TYPE OF OPERATION: 112c - Construction Regular Operation	

REASON FOR INSPECTION: Normal I&E Program	BOND CALCULATION TYPE: Complete Bond	BOND AMOUNT: \$81,383.00
DATE OF COMPLAINT: NA	POST INSP. CONTACTS: None	JOINT INSP. AGENCY: None
WEATHER: Clear	INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE: 	SIGNATURE DATE: July 3, 2020

The following inspection topics were identified as having Problems or Possible Violations. OPERATORS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING PAGES CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PERMIT AND APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS. If a Possible Violation is indicated, you will be notified under separate cover as to when the Mined Land Reclamation Board will consider possible enforcement action.

INSPECTION TOPIC: Revegetation

PROBLEM: Tamarisk (salt cedar) and Russian Olive trees are present within or have volunteered into the permit area and are becoming established. This is a problem for failure to employ weed control methods for a state listed noxious weed species within the permitted area, and to reduce the spread of weeds to nearby areas as required by Section 3.1.10 (6) of the rule.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: The operator shall either implement the existing weed control plan, or develop a weed control and management plan in accordance with Section 3.1.10 (6) of the Rule. This plan should be developed in consultation with the county extension agency, or weed control district office and should include specific control measures to be applied, a schedule for when control measures will be applied and a post-treatment monitoring plan. This weed control plan shall be submitted to the Division as a Technical Revision to the approved plan with the appropriate Technical Revision fee of \$216.00 by the corrective action date.

CORRECTIVE ACTION DUE DATE: 8/31/20

OBSERVATIONS

The Ted Franciscotti Pit #1 was inspected by Patrick Lennberg with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division/DRMS). The inspection was completed as part of the Division's routine monitoring inspection program. The site was previously inspected by the Division on January 14, 2016 as part of the Division's routine monitoring. No one representing the Operator or the land owner was present during the inspection, in part due to social distancing requirements caused by COVID-19. The weather was clear and cool.

The Ted Franciscotti Pit #1 is adjacent to County Road (CR) 640 approximately 1.75 miles west from the junction of the frontage road along Interstate 25. The site itself is approximately 9.5 miles north of Walsenburg, CO. The site is surrounded by rangeland and farmland with the post-mining land use is rangeland. The pit is a 282-acre 112c Construction Materials Reclamation Permit with a maximum allowed disturbance of 25 acres and mined in 7 phases. The primary commodity being mined at the site is sand and gravel. The approved post-mining land use is rangeland. The mine site was surrounded by the following land uses: rural residential, agricultural, and rangeland. A mine sign was observed as required by Rule 3.1.12.

Portions of the permit area were permitted over top of areas previously permitted by two separate 111 permits held by D.G. Huskin Construction Co. The two 111 permits held by D.G. Huskin Construction Co. have been terminated by the Division (M1997-042 and M1998-081). It also appears that the site may have been permitted over top of a pre-law mining disturbances. Many remnants of historic mining are present throughout Phase 1. Current mining is contained within Phase 1.

During preparation for the inspection the Operator, Fremont Paving and Redi-Mix, informed the Division that their lease agreement with the landowner has expired. The Operator is strongly encouraged to reach an agreement with land owner to maintain the permit in good standing.

The site was not active at the time of the inspection. It was noted that it appears that the land owner has been using various areas of the permit area to store materials. These materials are not part of the reclamation plan and will have to be removed prior to bond release. Activity has not progressed very much beyond the last inspection and the annual reports state that the material was last removed from the site in 2009. The Operator is strongly encouraged to either resume mining operations or enter into final reclamation. During the inspection it was observed that Tamarisk and Russian-olive trees were common throughout the permit area. These trees are a list B noxious weeds, fact sheets for Tamarisk and Russian-olive has been included with this report. The number trees at the site is being cited as a problem within this report and will have to be mitigated.

It appears that asphalt and concrete debris has been stored at the site. The Division was unable to find within the approved permit that inert fill was allowed to be used as backfill material. The Operator will have to file a technical revision to allow the material to be used as backfill or the debris will have to be removed from the site. On the western side of Phase 1 where there is a reject stockpile of material, volume estimated to be 9,500 to 10,000 cubic yards, from the previous permits it appears that the landowner is removing this material. According to the approved reclamation plan this material was to be used for filling the central depression area at the request of the landowner. It appears that there is approximately 20 acres of disturbance that needs to be reclaimed at this time. There are 7.75 acres in the eastern area encompassing the pre-law mining disturbances, 9.1 acres of the central depressed area that needs re-contouring, and 3 acres

near the reject stockpile. All roads onsite are approved to remain after mining. Outside of these disturbance areas the permit area appears to be in stable with diverse vegetation becoming established.

The Division was not able to GPS all the permit boundary markers but was able to identify some tee-posts being used as boundary markers and the permit area has a fence around it.

The Division evaluated the financial warranty and determined the current bond amount held by the Division is adequate at this time.

Photographs taken during the inspection are attached.

Please contact Patrick Lennberg (303)866-3567 ext. 8114 or email at patrick.lennberg@state.co.us if you have any questions regarding this report.

Inspection Contact Address

Jodi Schreiber
Fremont Paving & Redi-Mix, Inc.
P.O. Box 841
Canon City, CO 81215

Enclosure: Tamarisk Fact Sheet
Russian-olive Fact Sheet

cc: Jared Ebert, DRMS

ec: Jodi Schreiber, Fremont Paving & Redi-Mix, Inc., jodi@arycorp.com

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Mine sign posted at mine entrance



Photo 2: Tamarisk and Russian-olive trees in historic mining feature



Photo 3: Tamarisk and Russian-olive trees in historic mining feature



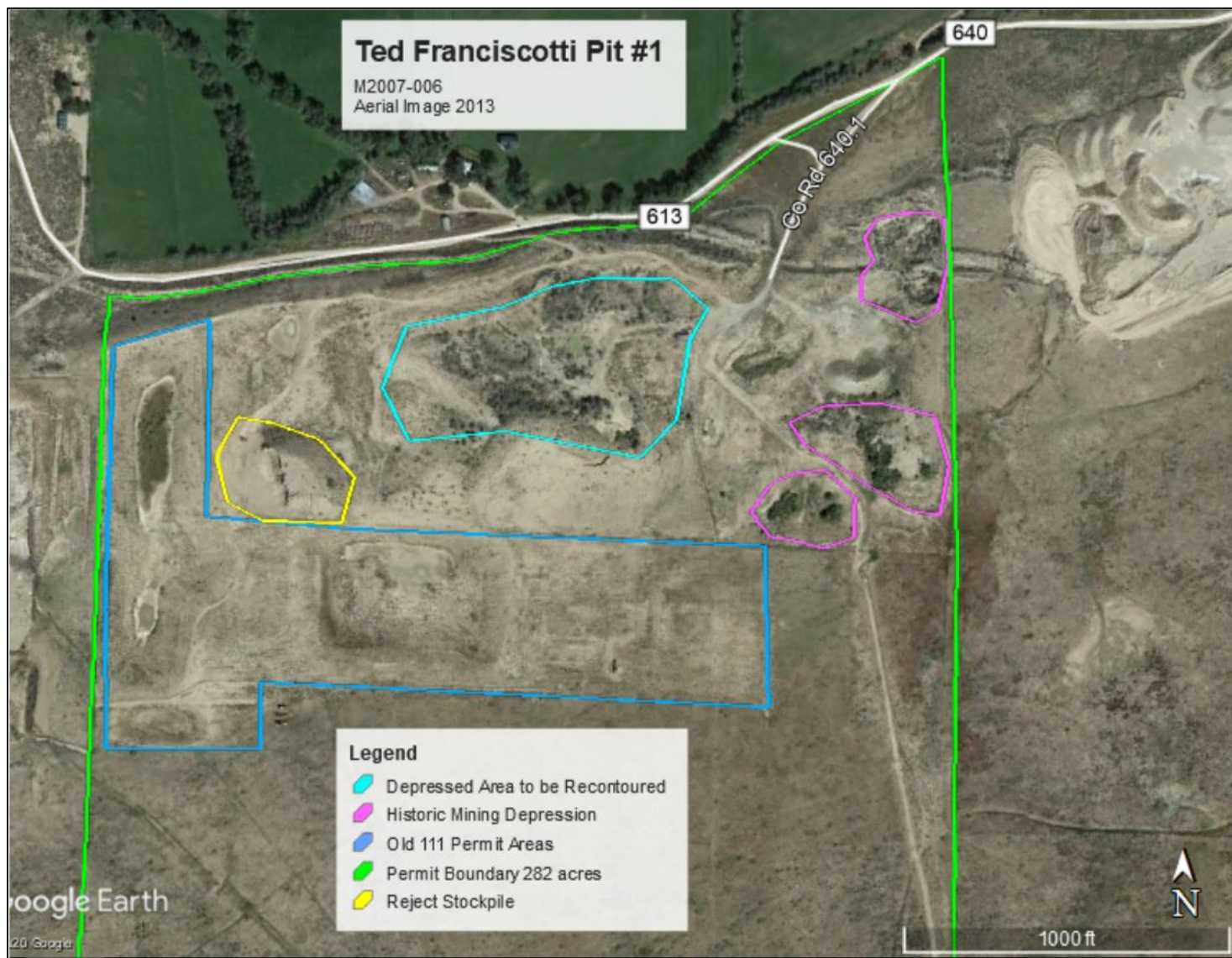
Photo 4: Mining area last disturbed in ~2009

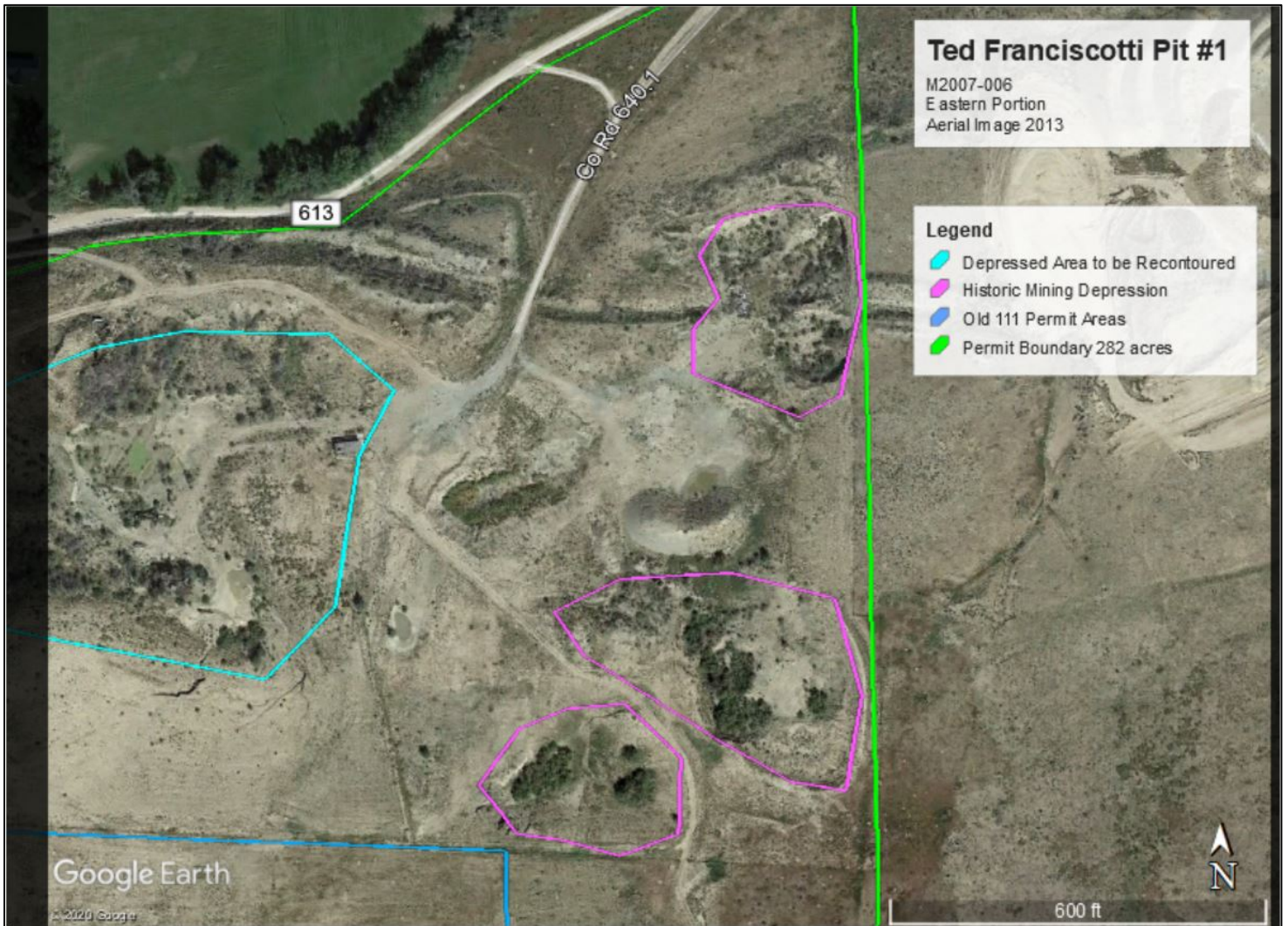


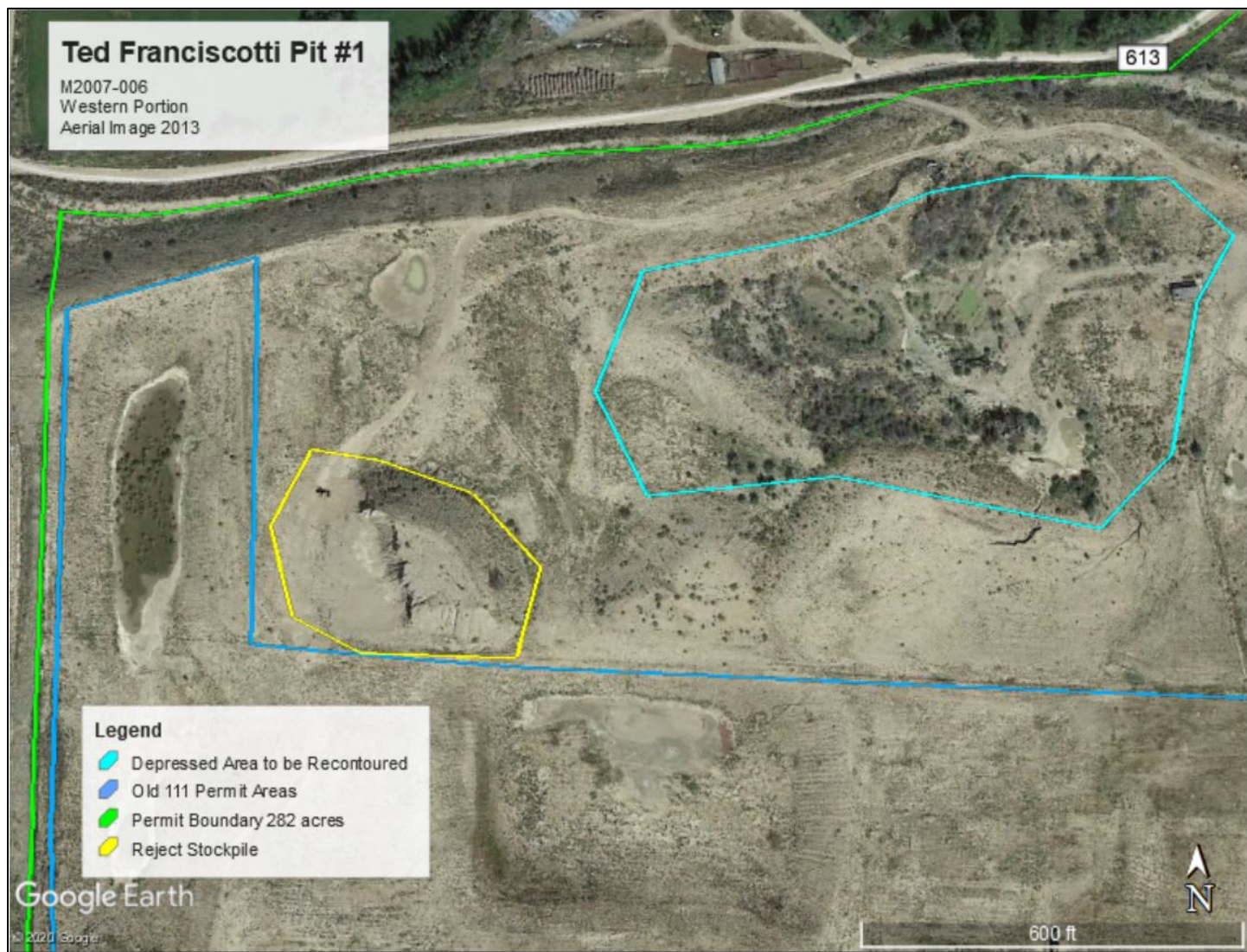
Photo 5: Concrete and asphaltic debris at the site



Photo 6: Asphalt debris in the foreground and the depressed area requiring re-contouring yellow arrow







GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS

The following list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>Y</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>N</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>Y</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>Y</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>N</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>PB</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>Y</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>N</u>	

Y = Inspected and found in compliance / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

Saltcedar

List B species

Rangeland, pasture, and riparian site recommendations

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Colorado Department of
Agriculture

305 Interlocken Pkwy
Broomfield, CO 80021

(303) 869-9030
weeds@state.co.us



Key ID Points

1. Saltcedar is a tall shrub or small tree that has white to pink flowers in clusters called racemes.
2. Leaves are small and scaly.

Saltcedar Identification and Management



Identification and Impacts

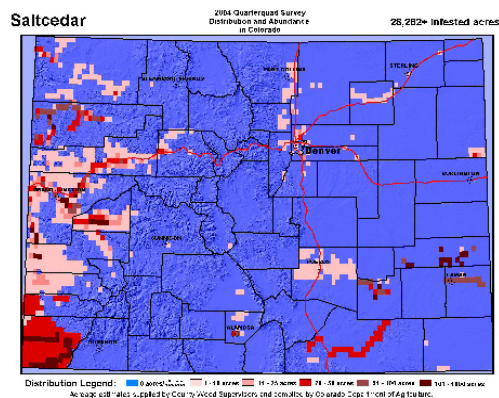
Saltcedar, or tamarisk (*Tamarix spp.*), is a non-native deciduous evergreen shrub or small tree that grows from 5 to 20 feet tall. The bark on saplings and stems is reddish-brown. The leaves are small, scale-like and bluish-green in color. Tiny pink to white flowers have five petals and grow on slender racemes. Saltcedar reproduces by seeds as well as vegetatively. A mature plant can produce up to 600,000 seeds per year. Seeds are viable for up to 45 days under ideal conditions. Saltcedar buds break dormancy in February or March. Flowering occurs anytime between April and August. Ideal conditions for saltcedar seedling survival are saturated soil during the first few weeks of life, a high water table, and open sunny ground with little competition from other plants.

Saltcedar was introduced from central Asia, northern Africa, and southern Europe for ornamental purposes and for stream bank stabilization. It is now widespread in the United States. Saltcedar crowds out native stands of riparian and wetland vegetation. Saltcedar increases salinity of surface soil, rendering the soil inhospitable to native plant species. Saltcedar can be

found along floodplains, riverbanks, streambanks, marshes, and irrigation ditches. Its heavy use of water has contributed to the intensity of the drought.

The most effective method of control for saltcedar is to prevent its establishment through proper land management. Monitor susceptible areas for new infestations. An integrated weed management approach has proven to be an effective control when dealing with saltcedar. Details on the back of this sheet can help to create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

Saltcedar is designated as a "List B" species on the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local infestations. For more information, please visit www.colorado.gov/ag/csd and click on the Noxious Weed Program link. Or call the State Weed Coordinator of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.



Plant and flower photos © Kelly Uhing. Leaf photo © USDA Aphis PPQ. Infestation photo above, © Steve Dewey, Invasive.org. Tamarisk branch © Stevens County, WA Noxious Weed Control Board

Tamarix spp.

**CULTURAL**

After a saltcedar infestation is managed, revegetation is necessary in order to protect the soil resource and reduce the threat of reinvasion. Seeded grasses, willow stakes, and cottonwood cuttings can reduce the chances of saltcedar reinvading managed sites.

**BIOLOGICAL**

The saltcedar leaf beetle (*Diorhabda elongata*) larvae and adults feed on foliage. This causes stem dieback and potential death of the plant if defoliation is consistent. The leaf beetle should be available for limited distribution. For more information, contact the Palisade Insectary of the Colorado Department of Agriculture, 970-464-7916.

**MECHANICAL**

A bulldozer or prescribed fire can be used to open up large stands of saltcedar. These methods must be followed up with a herbicide treatment of the resprouts when they are 1 to 2 meters tall. Chainsaws, or loppers for smaller plants, are effective for cut-stump treatments to smaller infestations or in environmentally-sensitive management areas.

Integrated Weed Management:

Select the appropriate control method based on the size of the area and other environmental or cultural considerations. Re-seed controlled areas with desirable species to protect the soil resource and to prevent or slow saltcedar reinvasion. Follow up control efforts the same growing season and for several years afterwards.

Saltcedar

HERBICIDES: The following are recommendations for herbicides that can be applied to range and pasturelands. Rates are approximate and based on hand-held equipment with an output of 30 gallons per acre. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. **The herbicide label is the LAW!**

Herbicide	Rate	Application Timing
Triclopyr (Garlon 4, Remedy)	20-30% solution in basal bark oil. The herbicide Pathfinder comes pre-mixed in oil and does not require dilution.	Cut-Stump Treatment: Apply to the cambial layer of the tree immediately after the cut-stump treatment and to roots above soil surface. (Summer to fall) Basal Bark Treatment: Spray till wet but not dripping; the roots above soil surface, root collar, and lower trunk to a height of 12-15 inches above ground (Summer to fall)
Glyphosate* (Rodeo - approved aquatic label)	Undiluted (100% solution) or 50% solution in basal bark oil	Cut-Stump Treatment: Apply to the cambial layer of the tree immediately after the cut-stump treatment and to roots above soil surface. Diluted solutions requires regular agitation. (Summer to fall)
Triclopyr (Garlon 4, Remedy) + Aminopyralid (Milestone)	3 qts. Garlon 4/acre + 7 oz. Milestone/acre + 0.25% v/v non-ionic surfactant	Broadcast foliar treatment: Apply when plants are growing rapidly. (May to September)
Note: *These products are non-selective and will kill any vegetation contacted.		
Additional herbicide recommendations for other species can be found at: www.colorado.gov/agconservation/CSUHerbicideRecommendations.pdf		



reddish, and have surfaces coated with gray and scaly pubescence, becoming smooth.

Once thought to be a beneficial windbreak tree, it since has been deemed detrimental to the environment. Russian olive can grow in a variety of soil and moisture conditions, but prefers open, moist, riparian zones. It is shade tolerant and can be found along streams, floodplains, fields and open areas up to approximately 8,000 feet in elevation. Russian-olive can outcompete native plants, interfere with natural plant succession and nutrient cycling, and tax water reserves. Because Russian olive is capable of fixing nitrogen in its roots, it can grow on bare, mineral substrates and dominate riparian vegetation. Although Russian olive provides a plentiful source of edible fruits for birds, ecologists have found that bird species richness is actually higher in riparian areas dominated by native vegetation.

The key to effective control of Russian olive is preventing establishment of the trees or shrubs. If plants are already present, control options include cut-stump treatments and mechanical mowing. These treatments depend on size and location of the plant. Details on the back of this sheet can help you create a management plan compatible with your site ecology.

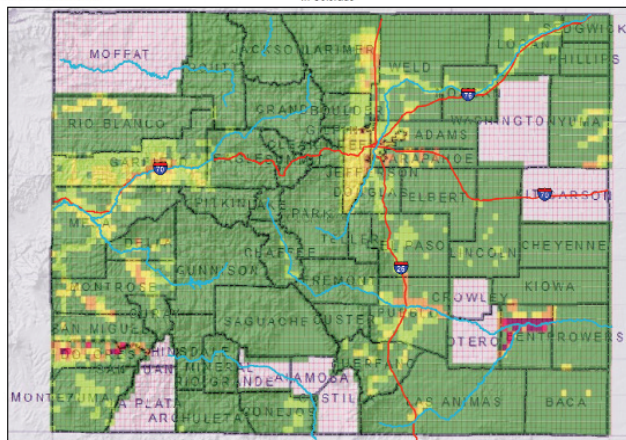


Russian olive *Elaeagnus angustifolia*

Russian Olive
Elaeagnus angustifolia

2013 Quarterquad Survey
Distribution and Abundance
In Colorado

64,150+ Infested Acres



Key ID Points

1. Leaves are silvery white.
2. Branches have 1 to 2 inch thorns.
3. Yellow-red fruits on mature plants.
4. Mature trees have shedding, reddish-brown bark.

Russian olive is redesignated as a “List B” species in the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. It is required to be either eradicated, contained, or suppressed depending on the local infestations. For more information visit www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds and click on the Noxious Weed Management Program. Or call the State Weed Coordinator at the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Conservation Services Division, 303-239-4100.

Acres estimates supplied by County Weed Coordinators and compiled by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Integrated Weed Management Recommendations

Integrated weed management offers the most effective combination of control efforts through the “cut stump” treatment. Trees are cut down with a hatchet or chainsaw, then immediately treated with an approved herbicide on the surface of the cut stump. The most effective timing is late summer/early fall for herbicide transfer into the roots.



© John Randall, TNC



© James Miller, USFS



© Chris Ness, Adams County



© Scott Peterson, USDA

CULTURAL

Replace Russian olives with native trees. Prevent establishment of new trees by removing seedlings and saplings before they mature. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service for recommendations of other possible trees or shrubs.

BIOLOGICAL

Tubercularia canker is an unapproved biocontrol. However, it overwinters on infected stems and spreads via rain-splash, animals, or pruning implements to open wounds in the bark. Infected tissue becomes discolored or sunken. Entire stems may be girdled and killed, and the disease can deform or kill stressed plants over time.

MECHANICAL

Saplings can be pulled with a weed-wrench or cut with brush-cutters. Trees can be girdled or cut with chainsaws. However, stump sprouting commonly occurs after cutting down the tree; and stump excavation without removing all parts of the roots can result in root sprouting. Treating cut-stumps with an herbicide can eliminate sprouting. Stump burning is practical when conditions support a long, hot fire and most effective in summer or early fall. Saplings are most sensitive to mechanical treatment.

CHEMICAL

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Note: *These products are non-selective and will kill any vegetation contacted.

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Russian olive

Elaeagnus angustifolia