

Project 04-114 Water Quality and Quantity in Western and Southwestern Nebraska

Project Legend:

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Western and Southwestern NE Water Quantity and Quality Program. The program will encourage landowner participation in conservation programs and is a cooperative venture between USDA, NGPC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pheasants Forever, several NRDs and other conservation groups. Federal, state and local funds will be utilized to pursue three goals: 1) to conserve water by reducing use of water on irrigated cropland and by reducing water use by invasive vegetation; 2) to improve water quality and 3) to create or improve wildlife habitats.

Proposal Context: Multiple communities in the Republican River basin (originally Republican River, South Platte, North Platte and Niobrara drainages; confined to Republican drainage, due to budget considerations)

Duration: April 1, 2004 through June 30, 2007

Cost: Awarded \$50,000 from NET out of a requested \$500,000

Awarded \$15,996.04 from Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Awarded \$18,136.36 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Awarded \$12,500 from National Wild Turkey Federation

Awarded \$12,500 from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Awarded \$10,740 from Private Landowners

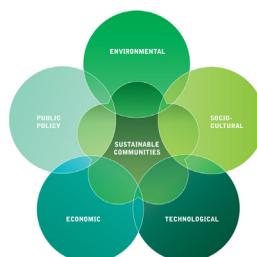
Process:

This project set out to accomplish more but was limited by lack of funding. The grant originally requested \$500,000 from NET and received \$50,000. Because of this Goals 1 and 2 were not completed. The work that was completed helped to create and improve wildlife habitat. Below is a listing of some of the accomplishments of this grant.

- Russian olives and cedars were removed from four project sites totaling 501.2 acres.
- 2,000 acres of grassland, wetland, channel and savannah habitats were positively impacted by the tree removal projects.
- A linear mile of the river was treated by a private landowner independently adjacent to one of the project sites.
- New partnership effort was established between US fish and Wildlife Service, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.
- Grant related projects and activities highlighted the need for tree removal practice to be added to NRCS programs within the Upper Republican NRD

Domains: The Environmental domain is represented throughout this project due to the fact that invasive species were removed from the area. This project also falls under the Economic domain because of the partnership that was established between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. This partnership resulted in over \$30,000 in contributions to this project.

Transferability: With adequate funding a project similar to this one could be implemented in any community facing invasive tree species.



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