



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Southwest Region



Bitter Lake NWR to Remove Salt Cedar American Recovery and Reinvestment Act FACT SHEET

Project Description

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has awarded a contract for \$799,828 to Southwest Interface Solutions of Belen, New Mexico to remove Salt Cedar plants from almost 2,300 acres of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The project began in January and is expected to be complete in December 2010.



The Pecos River at Bitter Lake NWR.

Salt Cedar, a non-native species originally brought to New Mexico for its erosion control properties, has become a nuisance with its rapid growth rate, high water use and out-competition of native vegetation. The Salt Cedar Species also raises the salinity level of local water and soil and provides little in terms of habitat or food for wildlife. An Environmental Assessment that outlined proposed options for combating Salt Cedar infestation pointed to extraction of 1,500 acres and herbicide treatment of 980 more. Southwest Interface Solutions is contracted to complete the assignment with a minimum of disturbance to wildlife at the Pecos River facility.

Project Benefits

The Service expects the award to create or save work for up to 8 people, preserve water, encourage endangered species growth, and restore the Pecos River Basin riparian habitat to its native state.

Total Budget Information for All Projects

Bitter Lake NWR: FFS#R2MA \$800,000

For More Information

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<http://recovery.doi.gov/press/bureaus/us-fish-and-wildlife-service/>

*Source – http://recovery.doi.gov/press/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/fws-arra-project-list_10-08-09.pdf