## Colorado State Conservation Board 2009 Matching Grants Project: West Otero-Timpas Conservation District: Timpas Creek Riparian Restoration

## What natural resource problem(s) did the project address?

The Arkansas River in SE Colorado is a major source of irrigation water, drinking water and provider of downstream states compact water delivery. Tamarisk is an introduced ornamental plant that has escaped to riparian areas and is now a state listed noxious weed. The plant crowds out native vegetation, destroys wildlife habitat, grows profusely by drawing precious water from rivers, and deposits salts that alter the soil so that other plants cannot grow - salt cedar is it's other common name. Tamarisk treatment is expensive and, like all noxious weeds treatment, needs to be sustained over several years. Tamarisk infestation is a significant problem in the Arkansas River watershed.

West Otero-Timpas Conservation District has worked on tamarisk control efforts on the Arkansas River and it's tributaries for six years. Since 2007 it has treated 200 acres along Timpas Creek and used its 2009 Matching Grant Funds and agency, commercial, landowner, and youth group partnerships to treat 20 acres of tamarisk along Timpas Creek - a tributary to the Arkansas River

## What was achieved?

- Total of 20 acres of tamarisk treated along Timpas Creek a tributary to the Arkansas River.
- Colorado Legends and Legacies Youth Corps treated 15 acres utilizing the cut stump method in an area
  where aerial spraying had occurred during the past two years and the helicopter had to work around
  cottonwood and willow plants.
- After the stumps cut, Tamarisk plants then sprayed with a 10% solution of the aquatic registered herbicide, Habitat.
- 5 acres treated by a private commercial applicator, Yates Pest control. Outlying tamarisk plants located in tributaries to Timpas Creek and stock pond areas within the Timpas watershed were foliar sprayed with Habitat at a 1% solution.
- US Fish and Wildlife and landowners provided cost-share match for 2009 in other years Natural
  Resource Conservation Service, CO Division of Wildlife, the State Land Board and CO State Forest Service
  have provided cost-share and technical assistance such partnering will continue in future years.



All noxious weeds are prolific seed producers and even a few plants left alive can quickly reinfest an area. Here the Colorado Legends and Legacies Youth Corp cut down tamarisk plants on Timpas Creek and chemically treats the stumps to prevent re-growth. The area will need to be diligently monitored for several yeas and every new tamarisk seedling killed