

SCOUTS TACKLE TAMARISK



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS



Two Scouts cut a large Tamarisk in Buckhorn Wash (above).
Photo courtesy of Castleland RC&D Council

Keys to Success

Long-term planning
(four years)

Commitment from all partners

Bold vision and goals

Utilization of Incident
Command System

Highly functioning Cooperative
Weed Management Area

Commitment to safety

Public information and education

Spirit of service and volunteerism

Massive Tamarisk Removal

In less than five days in June 2008, a group of Boy Scouts and other volunteers eradicated over 46 linear miles of tamarisk from lands in Central Utah.

The project was one of five across the United States completed by the Boy Scouts of America Order of the Arrow members, a elite group of experienced Scouts including adults. When combined, the five projects represent the largest national service project ever to take place on the nation's public lands. The work is in celebration of the Boy Scouts of America's upcoming centennial.

About 400 Arrowmen, members of ArrowCorps5, and their leaders from throughout the United States joined efforts with volunteers and employees of local, state and federal agencies to clear tamarisk, or salt cedar, from three drainages in the Manti-La Sal National Forest and on Bureau of Land Management lands that feed into the Colorado River.

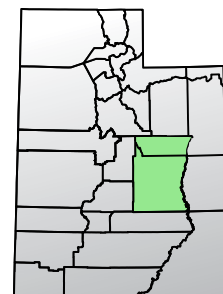
They worked in Joe's Valley, Dry Wash and Buckhorn Wash, all in Emery County. Scouts used pruners and handsaws to lop limbs from the tamarisk. They were followed by agency employees who used chainsaws on the trunks and sprayed stumps with herbicide. They used a mixture of Garlon® 4 Ultra, which appears to have been successful. Crews treated an area, and a quality control crew followed behind to treat any missed plants. A survey two months later showed an estimated 95 percent kill rate. Follow-up surveys and treatment are planned for the summer of 2009.

The group far exceeded their goal of 25 linear miles even though they were working with only 40 percent of the number of Scouts expected for the project.

They were honored by visits from Undersecretary Mark Rey, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Utah Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert, who expressed their appreciation for the service provided to America's public lands.



A Scout Arrowman attacks a thicket of Tamarisk (above).
Photo courtesy of Emery County Progress.



Skyline Cooperative Weed
Management Area

SCOUTS TACKLE TAMARISK



A Scout carries Tamarisk limbs from an infested site. (left). Photo courtesy of the Castleland RC&D Council. A mobile truck made chemical available to sprayers throughout the canyon (below). Photo courtesy of the Emery County Progress

The Statistics:

- Number of supporting agency hours: 6200
- Herbicide formulation applied: 600 gallons
- Number of spray cans: 50
- Number of chainsaws: 30
- Number of boats: 2
- State, city, county and federal supporting agencies: 22
- Number of U.S. Forest Service acres treated:
 - Joe's Valley 660 acres 13.65 miles
 - Dry Wash 265 acres 6.04 miles
- Number of BLM acres treated:
 - Buckhorn Wash 12,925 acres 26.55 miles
- Total Treatment: 13,850 acres
46.24 miles
- Number of supporting agency personnel: 110
- Number of neoprene gloves: 500 pair
- Chainsaws cleaned: 30 per day
150 total cleanings
- Number of chains sharpened: 75 per day, 375 total
- Feet of saw chain used: 150 feet
- Number of chainsaw hours: 480



Partners:

- Bureau of Land Management Utah State Office
- Bureau of Land Management Price Field Office
- Carbon County Weed Department
- Castle Dale City
- Castleland Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
- Dedicated Hunters
- Dow Chemical
- Emery Water Conservancy District
- Emery County Parks and Recreation
- Emery County School District
- Emery County Sheriff's Department & Emergency Medical Services
- Emery County Weed Department
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Huntington Cattlemens Association
- Huntington City
- Individual volunteers
- Intermountain Region Forest Service
- Manti-La Sal National Forest
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Park Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Order of the Arrow, Boy Scouts of America
- San Rafael Conservation District
- Skyline Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Utah Backcountry Volunteers
- Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
- Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
- Utah Division of Water Quality
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Utah Legislature
- Utah Partners for Conservation and Development
- Utah State Institutional Trust Lands
- Utah State University Extension Service