



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### WELD COUNTY APPLIED FOR NOXIOUS TREE REMOVAL GRANT

WELD COUNTY, CO – Last month, the Weld County Board of Commissioners approved a grant application to the Colorado Water Conservation Board for the Phreatophyte Control Grant. The application, which was submitted by the Department of Public Works Weed and Pest Division, is for \$300,000 which the county would use to remove Tamarisk and Russian Olive Trees for 55-linear miles along the Big Thompson River, Little Thompson River and South Platte River.

“Grant funds to aid in the removal of these noxious trees are essential to help landowners address the environmental impact these plants have on our ecosystem,” said Commissioner Pro Tem Mike Freeman. “This is a great opportunity for Weld County and affected landowners.”

If awarded the grant, Weld County will provide a cash match of \$10,000 and an in-kind donation of \$28,000 for supervision of the project, chemicals, travel, maintenance and monitoring of the project as well as a fifteen-month seasonal staff member. Many other organizations will provide cash matches totaling \$52,596 as well as in-kind donations totaling \$81,444 for this project.

“These trees use more water than native plants and can rapidly dry up irrigation ditches,” said Commissioner Pro Tem Mike Freeman. “In order to preserve Weld County’s land and native vegetation, it is important these trees are properly removed.”

To eradicate the trees, the cut-stump method will be used as it has the least amount of impact to the surrounding native vegetation and wildlife. In the cut-stump process, the trees are limbed with the tree trunks cut as close to the soil surface as possible then chemical is applied to the stump after the final cut is made. The cut material will be chipped and spread on site. Other options for use of the material is being explored as well.

“The South Platte Round Table recently had a meeting and discussed the issues related to these noxious trees,” said Commissioner Sean Conway, Coordinator for the Department of Public Works and Vice-Chair of the South Platte Round Table. “On behalf of the Board and the South Platte Round Table, we thank Tina Booton, Weed Division Supervisor, for being proactive and for putting together this grant application.”

If awarded the grant, the project will start on April 1, 2016, and continue through June 1, 2018. Long-term monitoring will continue twice a year for five years after the completion of the grant.

For more information about the Weld County Weed and Pest Division, visit [www.weldweeds.org](http://www.weldweeds.org).

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