

**Salt Cedar** *Tamarix ramosissima* Ledeb.

**Identification:** Salt Cedar species are spreading shrubs or small trees, 5-20' tall, with numerous slender branches and small, alternate, scale-like leaves. Bark of saplings is reddish-brown. From March through September, large numbers of small pale pink to white flowers appear in dense masses on 2- inch long spikes at branch tips.

**Potential Damage:**

As an aggressive colonizer, able to survive in a variety of habitats, it often forms monotypic stands, replacing willows, cottonwoods, and other native riparian vegetation. The stems and leaves of mature plants secrete salt; forming a crust above and belowground that inhibits other plants and changes soil chemistry. It is also an enormous water consumer. A single large plant can absorb 200 gallons of water per day. This consumption stresses native vegetation by lowering ground water levels and can dry up springs and marshy areas. These infestations also have detrimental impacts on wildlife. Its seeds have almost no protein value; its leaves offer little forage for browsing animals. It is not a favored bird habitat. Spreads by producing millions of tiny seeds borne on wind or water.



**Control and Prevention:** Take care not to drive or walk through infested areas. Stop and inspect vehicle between patrol units. MARK infested site with bright pink or orange flagging. MARK SITE on map and provide to Refuge Operations Specialist **immediately** upon return from field. Salt Cedar is a Class A noxious weed in Washington state and land owners/managers are legally required to attempt to eradicate this plant.



**Current Status on the Hanford Reach National Monument:**

There is a relatively large salt cedar infestation on the Wahluke unit north of the White Bluffs boat launch, and down to the river. Scattered plants have been found along WB-10 wasteway and on Saddle Mountain Refuge. Mapping and control efforts on this plant are a high priority. The goal is to eradicate this plant. Larger infestation areas have been aerial sprayed annually, but re-sprouting continues. Monitoring treated areas annually is also a priority. **Please be aware and look for this plant everywhere, but especially when on Wahluke.**