# SALTCEDAR REMOVAL IN THE NO-MOW ZONES IN THE RIO GRANDE CANALIZATION PROJECT, HATCH, NEW MEXICO



Prepared for:



U.S. Section, International Boundary and Water Commission

Prepared by:



2730 E. Camelback Road Suite 210 Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Contract 191BWC2OD0003 Task Order 191BWC21F0099

May 2023

Photograph: No-Mow Zone of the Rio Grande Canalization Project prior to Saltcedar Removal, Vernadero Group Inc., 2021

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Vernadero Group Inc. (Vernadero) was tasked with the removal and disposal of saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) within three sections of the Rio Grande floodplain in the vicinity of Hatch and Rincon, in Doña Ana County, New Mexico. The project area is within the No-Mow Zones of the U.S. Section, International Boundary and Water Commission's Rio Grande Canalization Project. The three sections of the floodplain within the No-Mow Zones where saltcedar and other invasive plant species were removed totaled 247 acres.

In October and November 2021, Vernadero mapped approximately 108 acres of saltcedar, and approximately 0.25 acre of giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and phragmites (*Phragmites* sp.). Immediately following the mapping of invasive plant species, Vernadero's subcontractor Brushmaster LLC excavated and mulched all saltcedar, giant reed, and phragmites within the three sections of floodplain, completing the removal work by March 2022. Following mechanical removal and mulching, Vernadero mapped and estimated the height of the mulch piles, determining approximately 13,249 cubic yards of saltcedar were excavated. In June 2022, Vernadero surveyed for resprouting saltcedar for treatment with herbicide. In November 2022, Brushmaster LLC mechanically removed selected larger saltcedar resprouts and applied herbicide to all resprouts utilizing a cut-stump treatment method. Vernadero and Brushmaster LLC conducted a reconnaissance inspection of resprouts in March 2023; the remaining resprouts were again treated with herbicide in April 2023.

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#### LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Brushmaster LLC Brushmaster

GIS Geographic Information System

GPS Global Positioning System

RCGP Rio Grande Canalization Project

ROD Record of Decision

USIBWC International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. Section

Vernadero Group Inc.

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) was granted the authority to construct, operate, and maintain the Rio Grande Canalization Project (RGCP) through the Act of June 4, 1936, 49 Statute 1463, Public Law No. 648. USIBWC operates and maintains the RGCP under the requirements of the May 12, 1906, Convention with Mexico; the Act of June 4, 1936; and 22 United States Code 277, implementing regulations for the USIBWC. The RGCP consists of a narrow river corridor that extends 105.4 miles along the Rio Grande, from below Percha Dam in Sierra County, New Mexico, downstream to the American Dam in El Paso County, Texas. A levee system for flood control extends 57 miles on the west side and 74 miles on the east side of the Rio Grande in the RGCP (USIBWC 2014).

In June 2009, the USIBWC signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for River Management Alternatives for the RGCP (USIBWC 2009) based on a 2004 Environmental Impact Statement. The ROD committed the USIBWC to continuing to implement its statutory requirements of flood control and water deliveries while implementing environmental measures in the long-term management of the river corridor and creating a River Management Plan. One environmental measure in the ROD was the cessation of mowing on nearly 2,000 acres, where the USIBWC would manage the floodplain for grasslands. In 2012, the USIBWC identified over 1,500 acres as No-Mow Zones and began implementing no-mowing practices in 2013.

Since the implementation of the No-Mow Zones, saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) has invaded the floodplain at a rate faster than crews have been able to manage the invasive plant species. Mature saltcedar is prominent within the No-Mow Zones. USIBWC contracted with Vernadero Group Inc. (Vernadero) to remove saltcedar, giant reed (*Arundo donax*), and phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) in 247 acres of No-Mow Zones along three segments of the Rio Grande, outside of Hatch, New Mexico (Figures 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3). These corridors span roughly west to east, and are hereafter referred to as Area 1, Area 2, and Area 3. Vernadero subcontracted the initial saltcedar and giant reed removal and subsequent control activities to Brushmaster LLC (Brushmaster). Vernadero conducted all project management, vegetation mapping, and reporting for this task order.

Vernadero mapped the extent of saltcedar and giant reed in the three areas prior to the start of mechanical removal of both species. After mechanical removal of those species, the plant biomass was mulched on the site. To estimate the biomass removed, Vernadero mapped the area of the mulch piles and estimated their respective heights. These estimations provided a volume that represented the biomass of saltcedar and giant reed that had been removed. Vernadero surveyed the project area after removal activities and mapped any areas with resprouting saltcedar. Resprouting saltcedar was both mechanically removed and treated with herbicide.



Figure 1-1. Saltcedar Removal Area 1

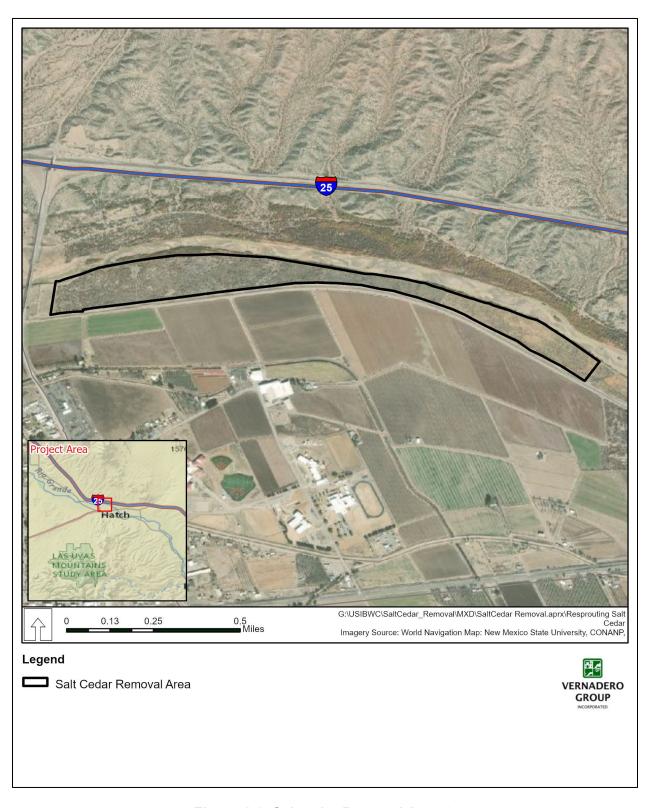


Figure 1-2. Saltcedar Removal Area 2

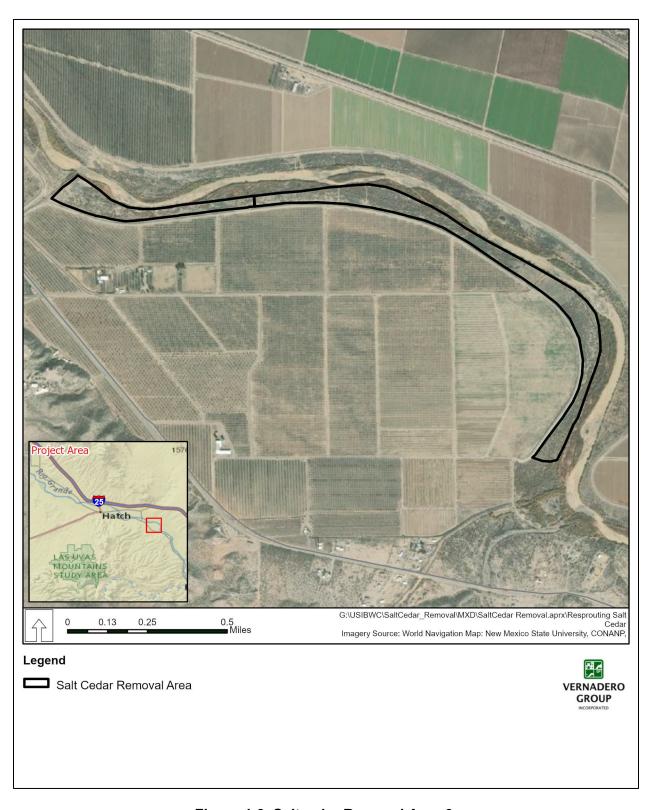


Figure 1-3. Saltcedar Removal Area 3

#### 2.0 PROJECT TASKS AND METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 Task 1 – Remove Invasive Vegetation

Vernadero surveyed 247 acres in the project area and mapped approximately 108 acres of saltcedar in the No-Mow Zones in three corridors along the Rio Grande (Figures 2-1, 2-2, and 2-3) in November 2021. Mapping technology included the use of ESRI ArcGIS Field Maps and an EOS Arrow 100 global positioning system (GPS) unit with submeter accuracy. With submeter precision, Vernadero mapped the area of saltcedar stands, as well as giant reed and phragmites, by creating polygons on the map. Points were used instead of polygons to represent one or very few saltcedar plants when not found in a dense stand. For calculation purposes, an area of 5 square meters was assigned to each mapped point. In addition to mapping area, Vernadero estimated the density (1s, 10s, 100s, or 1,000s) of individuals for each mapped feature. Vernadero also mapped approximately 0.25 acre of phragmites and giant reed in the 247 acres of the No-Mow Zones

Brushmaster excavated the invasive plant species, removing all shoots and roots, starting in December 2021, and completed excavation in March 2022, prior to the start of the bird nesting season. Invasive plant species (saltcedar, giant reed, and phragmites) were removed mechanically by use of a tracked John Deere 160G LC excavator with an articulated thumb attachment and bucket. As much of the plants' root crown and lateral roots were removed as possible while minimizing disturbance of existing native plants. Native vegetation was avoided to the greatest extent practicable, but some native mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.) trees in the floodplain were damaged or removed during saltcedar removal. Damage to the banks of the Rio Grande was avoided entirely.

A Caterpillar 259 tracked skid steer with a brush rake attachment was used to mitigate ruts and holes left from pulling and removing saltcedar. Following vegetation removal activities, the ground was left as level as possible.

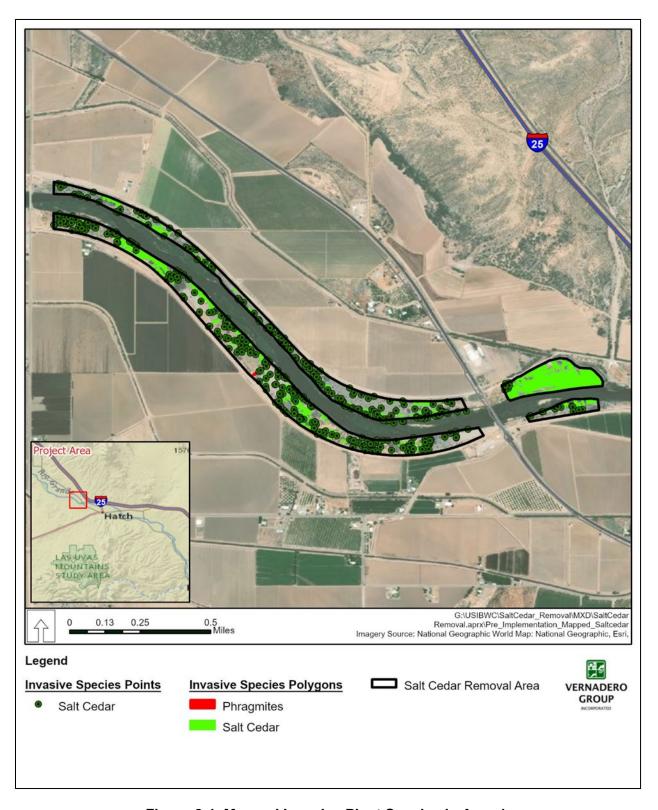


Figure 2-1. Mapped Invasive Plant Species in Area 1

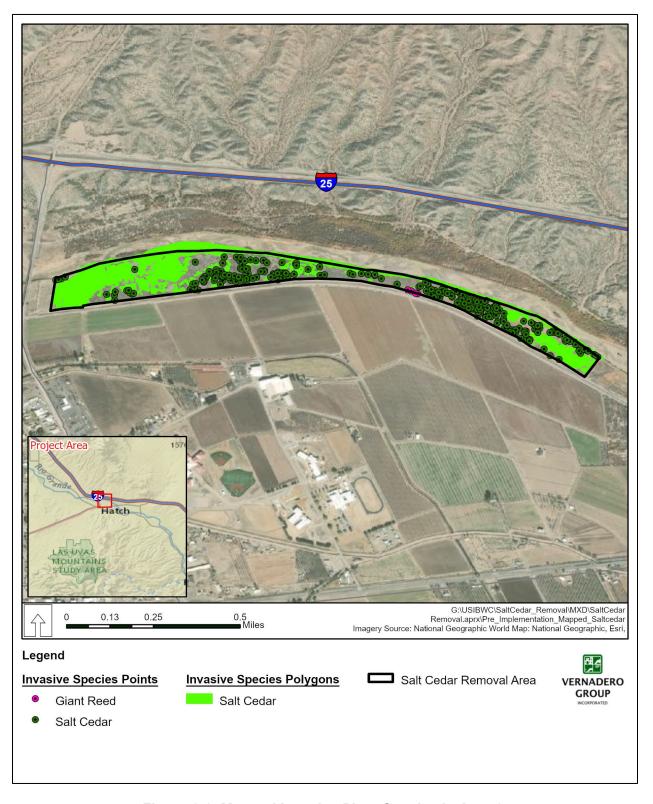


Figure 2-2. Mapped Invasive Plant Species in Area 2

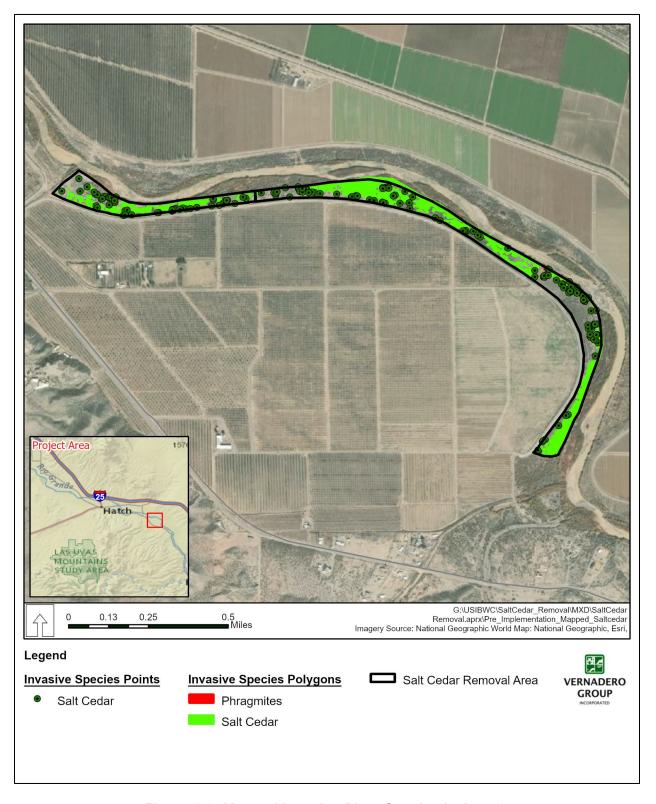


Figure 2-3. Mapped Invasive Plant Species in Area 3

#### 2.2 Task 2 – Eliminate Vegetation Debris

All vegetation debris at each saltcedar removal site was mulched by Brushmaster using a Barko Mulcher 937. Mulching occurred immediately after vegetation removal, and the mulching effort extended from December 2021 through March 2022. Mulched material was carefully spread into larger and thinner mulch piles using a skid steer to ensure the depth of mulch would not preclude the growth of native plant species. Saltcedar root balls were mulched along with all other woody vegetation debris. All plant material was mulched to a size that was small enough that regrowth and resprouting would not occur from removed invasive plant material. Vernadero mapped mulch piles and estimated mulch pile heights immediately during and after Brushmaster's mulching effort (Figures 2-4, 2-5, and 2-6). Using the area and height of mulch piles, we estimated the cubic volume of biomass excavated and mulched. Representative photographs of mulch piles are documented in a photograph log in Appendix A and are provided in Appendix B.

In June 2022, Vernadero surveyed Areas 1, 2, and 3 and mapped approximately 10 acres of resprouting saltcedar in the No-Mow Zones (Figures 2-7, 2-8, and 2-9). Representative photographs of resprouting saltcedar are listed in Appendix A and are provided in Appendix B. Following mapping of saltcedar, Brushmaster employed chemical treatment with herbicide from July through November 2022. Garlon 4 was used along with a cut-and-stump-spray method to treat all resprouts. In November 2022, Brushmaster conducted additional mulching of material, including larger resprouts. All mulched resprouts were also treated with Garlon 4. All herbicide was applied using backpack sprayers.

Vernadero and Brushmaster completed a reconnaissance survey of resprouts in Areas 1, 2, and 3 in March 2023. Remaining saltcedar resprouts that were identified in March 2023 were treated again with Garlon 4 in April 2023 using a cut-and-stump-spray method and backpack sprayers. The April 2023 treatment of saltcedar resprouts completed the invasive plant species control efforts in the No-Mow Zones under this task order.



Figure 2-4. Mulch Piles after Excavation in Area 1

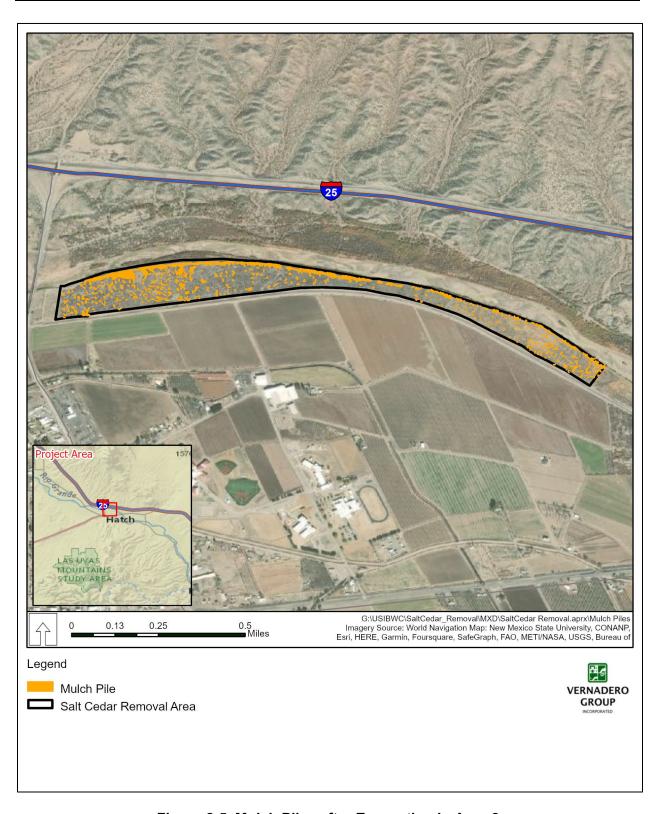


Figure 2-5. Mulch Piles after Excavation in Area 2

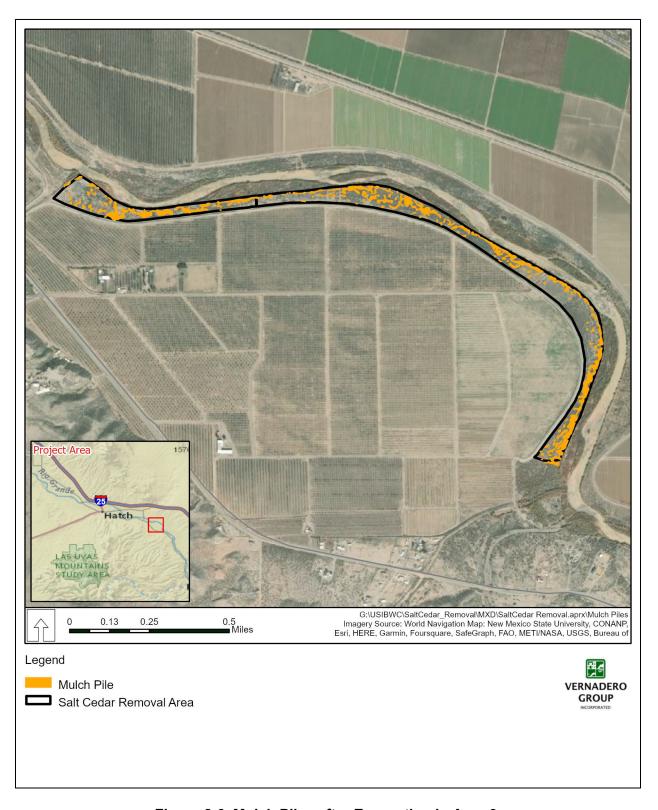


Figure 2-6. Mulch Piles after Excavation in Area 3

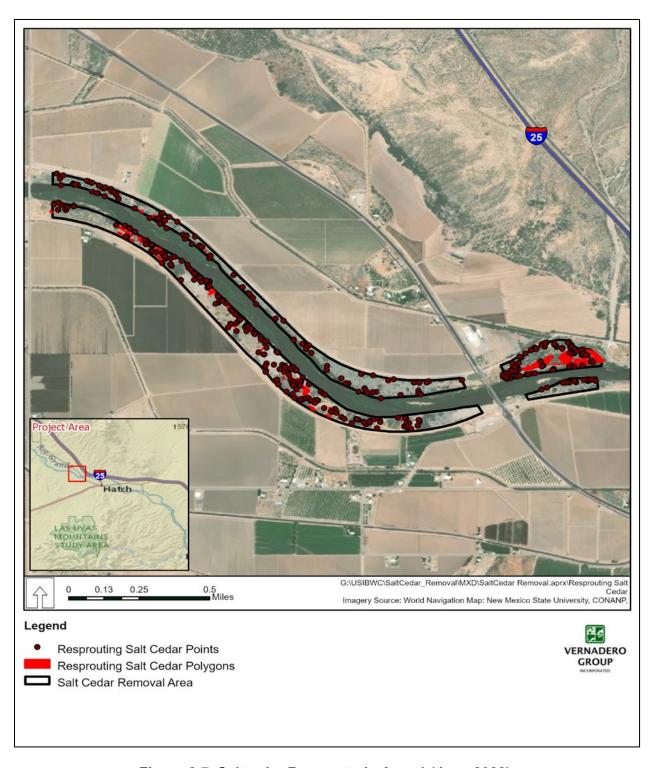


Figure 2-7. Saltcedar Resprouts in Area 1 (June 2022)

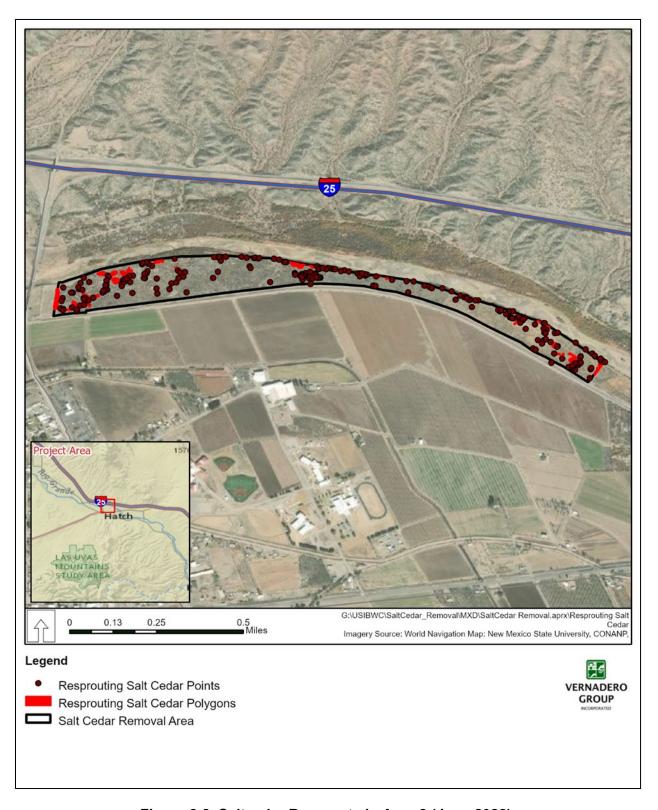


Figure 2-8. Saltcedar Resprouts in Area 2 (June 2022)

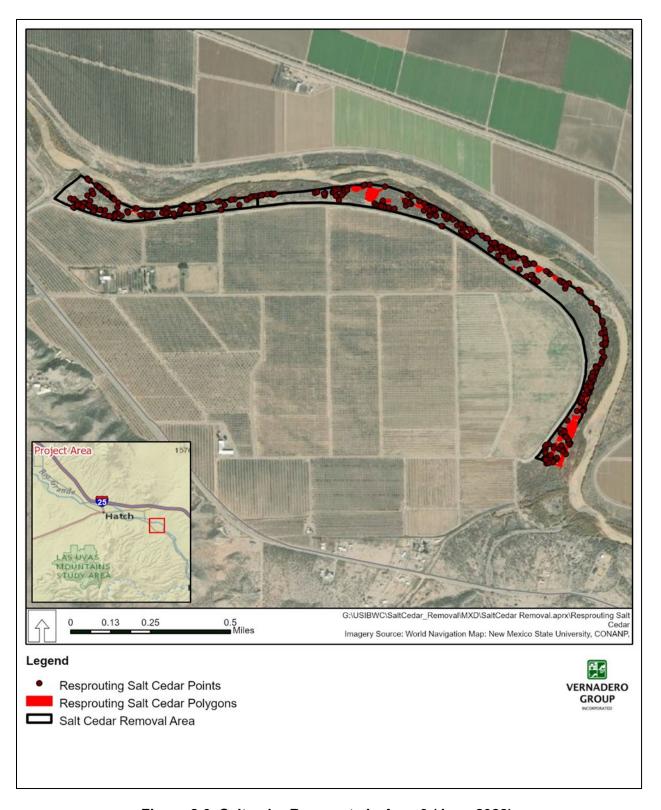


Figure 2-9. Saltcedar Resprouts in Area 3 (June 2022)

#### 2.3 Task 3 – Project Administration

Vernadero conducted a kickoff teleconference, documented work with photographs (see Appendices A and B), and provided estimates of the area and volume of invasive plant species removed in Areas 1, 2, and 3 of the No-Mow Zones. Geospatial data were delivered in an ESRI file geodatabase that is compatible with the ArcGIS version currently used by USIBWC. A schedule for all work completed is given in Table 2-1. Vernadero submitted monthly progress reports with details regarding work and financial progress and maintained coordination and communication with USIBWC staff throughout the period of performance.

**Table 2-1. Completed Progress for Saltcedar Removal** 

Activity	Dates
Mechanical invasive species removal	November 2021 to March 2022
First cut stump herbicide treatment	July to November 2022
Additional mulching of large debris and saltcedar resprouts	November 2022
Herbicide retreatment of resprouts	April 2023

#### 3.0 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Saltcedar Area and Removal Estimates

Table 3-1 presents the area of saltcedar in Areas 1, 2 and 3 of the No-Mow Zones prior to mechanical removal of invasive plant species and the area of saltcedar resprouts following the completion of mechanical removal activities.

Saltcedar Mapping Event	Area (acres)	Percentage of Project Area
Saltcedar prior to Mechanical Removal (November 2021)	108	43.7%
Saltcedar Resprouts Following Mechanical Removal (June 2022)	11	4.04%

**Table 3-1. Saltcedar Cover and Removal Results** 

Nearly half (47.3 percent) of the project area had saltcedar cover prior to the start of mechanical removal activities. As mapped in June 2022, resprouting saltcedar had a total cover of 4.04 percent of the total project area, representing only 9.3 percent of the original area mapped. These estimates indicate that the initial saltcedar cover in Areas 1, 2, and 3, of the No-Mow Zones was reduced by just over 90 percent. No giant reed or phragmites were observed following the initial removal of plant species.

While performing work, Vernadero biologists observed many areas where illegal dumping occurred. Photographs documenting trash in the floodplain of Areas 1, 2, and 3, are in Appendix B.

Based on density estimates recorded with each mapped saltcedar geographic information system (GIS) feature, Vernadero estimated that there were 9,539 individuals in the project area prior to removal. Vernadero mapped approximately 36 acres of mulch piles with an average height of 2.3 inches, equating to an estimated 13,249 cubic yards of saltcedar mulched on the site. Calculations for volume estimates are provided in Appendix C.

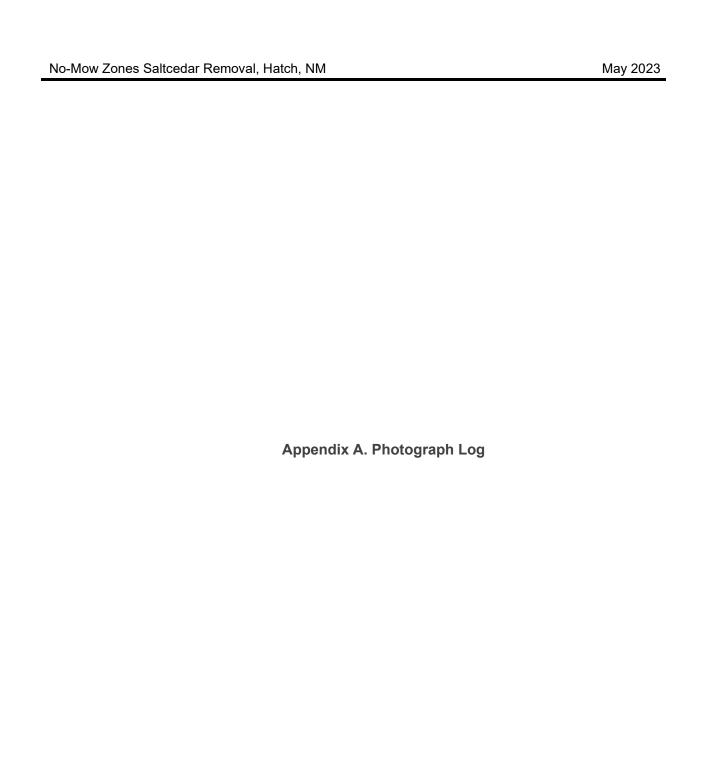
#### 4.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Vernadero and Brushmaster successfully implemented the tasks associated with this task order and removed and controlled saltcedar, giant reed, and phragmites in the floodplain of Areas 1, 2, and 3 of the No-Mow Zones. Treating resprouts through the end of the task order's period of performance will support short-term control of these invasive plant species.

Approximately 11 acres of resprouting saltcedar were observed in early June 2022 after complete removal of all saltcedar in the project area. This rapid regrowth is a strong indication of how competitive and hardy saltcedar is, and it is Vernadero's recommendation that herbicide application continue in Areas 1, 2, and 3 of the No-Mow Zones to prevent the recolonization of these areas by saltcedar in the future. The effort for an annual application of herbicide to saltcedar resprouts in these cleared areas would be less than having to return and mechanically remove mature saltcedar in 10 to 12 years, if left untreated.

#### 5.0 REFERENCES

- United States International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). 2014. Rio Grande Canalization Project River Management Plan. Last Updated November 12, 2014.
- United States International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). 2009. Record of Decision: River Management Alternatives for the Rio Grande Canalization Project. <a href="http://www.ibwc.gov/EMD/CanalizationWebpage/ROD\_EIS%20June2009.pdf">http://www.ibwc.gov/EMD/CanalizationWebpage/ROD\_EIS%20June2009.pdf</a>. Accessed March 6, 2023.





#### INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY & WATER COMMISSION

# LOG OF PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

PROJECT: Saltcedar Removal in the RGCP No-Mow Zones CONTRACT NUMBER: 191BWC20D0003

CONTRACTOR: Vernadero Group Inc

PHOTO #	DATE	FILENAME	PHOTOGRAPHER'S NAME	ORIENTATION	AREA	LOCATION OR STRUCTURE	DESCRIPTION OF PHOTO
1	10/26/2021	1_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mature cottonwoods
2	10/26/2021	2_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Saltcedar in dense willows
3	10/26/2021	3_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
4	10/27/2021	3_B.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
5	10/26/2021	4_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Saltcedar mixed with Typha
6	10/26/2021	5_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
7	10/26/2021	5_B.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
8	10/26/2021	6_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
9	10/26/2021	7_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Salt cedar
10	10/26/2021	8_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mixed saltcedar and natives. Rhus and Prosopis
11	10/26/2021	9_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Salix mesquite and salt cedar
12	10/26/2021	10_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Rhus aromatica
13	10/26/2021	11_A.jpg	Eri <mark>c We</mark> bb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
14	10/26/2021	11_B.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
15	10/26/2021	12_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Four wing saltbush
16	10/26/2021	13_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
17	10/26/2021	14_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Cattails and saltcedar
18	10/26/2021	15_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mixed salt cedar and willows
19	10/26/2021	15_B.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mixed salt cedar and willows

20	10/26/2021	16_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Arundo
21	10/26/2021	16_B.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Arundo
22	10/26/2021	17_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Rio Grande
23	10/26/2021	18_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Beehives
24	10/27/2021	19_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
25	10/27/2021	19_B.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
26	10/27/2021	20_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
27	10/27/2021	21_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
28	10/27/2021	22_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape
29	10/27/2021	22_B.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape
30	10/27/2021	23_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
31	10/27/2021	24_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
32	10/27/2021	24_B.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
33	10/27/2021	24_C.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
34	10/27/2021	25_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
35	10/27/2021	26_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
36	10/27/2021	27_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
37	10/27/2021	27_B.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
38	10/27/2021	28_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
39	10/27/2021	29_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
40	10/27/2021	30_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
41	10/27/2021	31_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape
42	10/27/2021	32_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash

			T	Γ	ı		
43	10/27/2021	33_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape
44	10/27/2021	34_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
45	10/27/2021	35_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash
46	10/28/2021	36_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; facing N
47	10/28/2021	37_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; facing E
48	10/28/2021	38_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; facing E
49	10/28/2021	39_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Snake shed; facing N
50	10/28/2021	40_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; facing N
51	10/28/2021	41_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Wasp nest? Facing N
52	10/28/2021	42_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; facing E
53	10/28/2021	43_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape
54	10/28/2021	43_B.jpg	Nikki Gordon	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape
55	10/28/2021	44_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; facing N
56	10/28/2021	45_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; facing E
57	10/28/2021	46_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; facing N
58	10/28/2021	47_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; facing W
59	10/28/2021	48_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	South	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; facing S
60	10/28/2021	49_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape; facing N
61	10/28/2021	50_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; facing W
62	2/3/2022	51_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
63	2/3/2022	52_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
64	2/3/2022	53_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Arundo stand mulched.
65	2/3/2022	54_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	

66	2/3/2022	55_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
67	2/3/2022	55_B.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
68	2/3/2022	56_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
69	2/3/2022	57_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
70	2/3/2022	58_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
71	2/3/2022	59_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
72	2/3/2022	59_B.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
73	2/3/2022	60_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
74	2/3/2022	61_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
75	2/3/2022	61_B.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
76	2/3/2022	62_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
77	2/3/2022	62_B.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
78	2/3/2022	63_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Rio Grande in Feb
79	2/3/2022	64_A.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	
80	2/2/2022	65_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	South	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; S
81	2/2/2022	66_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape; E
82	2/2/2022	66_B.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape; E
83	2/3/2022	67_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape; W
84	2/3/2022	67_B.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape; W
85	2/3/2022	68_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	South	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape; S
86	2/3/2022	69_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Unmulched Tamarisk; N
87	2/3/2022	70_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; E
88	2/3/2022	71_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	Northwest	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Raptor; NW

89	2/3/2022	71_B.jpg	Nikki Gordon	Northwest	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Raptor; NW
90	2/3/2022	71_C.jpg	Nikki Gordon	Northwest	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Raptor; NW
91	2/3/2022	72_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape; N
92	2/3/2022	73_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	South	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; S
93	2/3/2022	74_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mesquite; W
94	2/3/2022	75_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	Northeast	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape; NE
95	2/1/2022	76_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northwest	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Look through windshield of Barko. Foreground has been mulched, background plucked but not mulched; W side river looking NW
96	2/1/2022	76_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northwest	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Look through windshield of Barko. Foreground has been mulched, background plucked but not mulched; W side river looking NW
97	1/26/2022	77_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Option three, mulching, before and after; W side R looking N
98	1/26/2022	77_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Option three, mulching, before and after; W side R looking N
99	1/26/2022	77_C.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Option three, mulching, before and after; W side R looking N
100	2/11/2022	78_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Which way did they go; W side R looking N
101	2/18/2022	79_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	Southeast	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Second rake after first mulching. Pile will be re-mulched; E side R looking SE
102	2/21/2022	80_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northwest	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Second raking piles to be re-mulched; E side R looking NW
103	6/29/2022	80_B.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Resprout
104	2/21/2022	81_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	Southeast	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Skid Steer raking up mulched piles to be re-mulched; E side R looking SE
105	2/21/2022	81_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	Southeast	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Skid Steer raking up mulched piles to be re-mulched; E side R looking SE
106	6/30/2022	81_C.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Resprout
107	3/15/2022	82_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	Northwest	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape, in riverbed; Facing NW
108	6/29/2022	82_B.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Salt Cedar
109	6/29/2022	83_A.jpg	Eric Webb	North	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Rio Grande; Looking north
110	6/29/2022	83_B.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Resprout

111	6/30/2022	84_A.jpg	Eric Webb	South	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Homeless encampment; South
112	6/30/2022	84_B.jpg	Eric Webb	South	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Homeless encampment; South
113	6/29/2022	84_C.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Resprout
114	6/30/2022	85_A.jpg	Eric Webb	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Saltcedar RR sprout; Facing West
115	6/29/2022	85_B.jpg	Eric Webb	not recorded	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Resprout
116	6/30/2022	86_A.jpg	Eric Webb	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Saltcedar resprout; North
117	7/5/2022	87_A.jpg	Eric Webb	Southeast	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Resprouts and mulch pile; SE
118	7/6/2022	88_A.jpg	Eric Webb	North	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Resprouts salt cedar; N
119	11/7/2021	89_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East, Northeast	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; E/NE
120	11/7/2021	89_B.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East,Northeast	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; E/NE
121	11/7/2021	90_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; N
122	11/7/2021	91_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; N
123	11/7/2021	92_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Birds; W, 200+ m away
124	11/7/2021	92_B.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Birds; W, 200+ m away
125	11/7/2021	92_C.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Birds; W, 200+ m away
126	11/7/2021	93_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	Southwest	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; SW
127	11/7/2021	94_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Wasps nest?; N
128	11/7/2021	95_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Green waste; N
129	11/7/2021	96_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; W
130	11/8/2021	97_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	Southeast	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape; SE, Floodplain
131	11/8/2021	98_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; E, Floodplain
132	11/8/2021	99_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	Northeast	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; NE, Floodplain
133	11/9/2021	100_A.jpg	Dick Lanford	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	South side looking north, northeast; South side

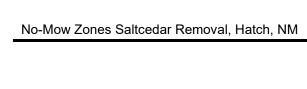
134	11/9/2021	100_B.jpg	Dick Lanford	Northeast	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	South side looking north, north east; South side
135	11/5/2021	101_A.jpg	Dick Lanford	South	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	After plucking; Looking South
136	11/5/2021	101_B.jpg	Dick Lanford	South	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	After plucking; Looking South
137	11/5/2021	102_A.jpg	Dick Lanford	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Southwest corner of southern plot; Southwest looking north
138	11/5/2021	102_B.jpg	Dick Lanford	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Southwest corner of southern plot; Southwest looking north
139	11/8/2021	103_A.jpg	Dick Lanford	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	South looking north to river; Looking north
140	11/8/2021	103_B.jpg	Dick Lanford	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	South looking north to river; Looking north
141	11/9/2021	104_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Salt cedar lining the perimeter, outside the project are ; N, Floodplain
142	11/9/2021	104_B.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Salt cedar lining the perimeter, outside the project area; N, Floodplain
143	12/28/2021	105_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	Northeast	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mulch pile; NE
144	11/9/2021	106_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	South	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Salt cedar lining perimeter, outside of project area; S, Floodplain
145	11/9/2021	106_B.jpg	Nikki Gordon	South	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Salt cedar lining perimeter, outside of project area; S, Floodplain
146	11/10/2021	107_A.jpg	Dick Lanford	North, Northeast	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	South side looking north/ northeast; South
147	11/10/2021	107_B.jpg	Dick Lanford	South	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	South side looking north/ northeast; South
148	11/11/2021	108_A.jpg	Dick Lanford	East	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	West looking east; West side
149	11/11/2021	108_B.jpg	Dick Lanford	East	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	West looking east; West side
150	11/17/2021	109_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	South	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mulched cab; W side, looking down s
151	11/17/2021	109_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	South	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mulched cab; W side, looking down s
152	11/17/2021	110_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	South	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mulched s cedar; W side river looking S
153	11/19/2021	111_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Looking N, before plucking; Hatch Bridge, W side R,
154	11/19/2021	111_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Looking N, before plucking; Hatch Bridge, W side R,
155	11/17/2021	112_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Photo take in operator seat of mulcher; W side R looking N
156	11/19/2021	113_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northeast	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Before and after mulching; W, looking N, E

157	11/19/2021	113_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northeast	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Before and after mulching; W, looking N, E
158	11/19/2021	113_C.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northeast	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Before and after mulching; W, looking N, E
159	11/19/2021	114_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	East	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Pile after mulching; W side river looking E
160	11/19/2021	115_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northwest	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Looking NW mulched pile in foreground. unmulched in background; W side river
161	11/19/2021	115_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northwest	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Looking NW mulched pile in foreground. unmulched in background; W side river
162	11/24/2021	116_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northwest	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mulching W side River; W side looking NW
163	11/24/2021	116_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northwest	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mulching W side River; W side looking NW
164	11/24/2021	116_C.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northwest	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mulching W side River; W side looking NW
165	11/27/2021	117_A.jpg	Dick Lanford	Northeast	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	South side, looking northeast; South
166	11/20/2021	118_A.jpg	Dick Lanford	North	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Southwest end looking north; South
167	11/13/2021	119_A.jpg	Dick Lanford	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	South side next to river looking north; South
168	11/16/2021	120_A.jpg	Dick Lanford	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	South side looking north; South side
169	11/29/2021	121_A.jpg	Dick Lanford	Northeast	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	South side, looking northeast; South side
170	12/9/2021	122_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	East	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Barko 937 mulcher and Terex R350T skid steer with Toshhog mulching head; E side river looking E
171	12/2/2021	123_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	After mulching; W side River looking N
172	12/2/2021	123_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	After mulching W side River looking N
173	12/7/2021	124_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mulching piles and before mulching; E side River looking W
174	12/7/2021	124_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mulching piles and before mulching; E side River looking W
175	11/30/2021	125_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	After mulching; W side R 1 look W 2 N 3 E
176	11/30/2021	125_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	After mulching; W side R 1 look W 2 N 3 E
177	11/30/2021	125_C.jpg	Coby Bartram	East	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	After mulching; W side R 1 lookW 2 N 3 E
178	12/9/2021	126_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Foreground mulched pile with unmulched piles in background ; S hwy 187 E side looking N
179	12/9/2021	126_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Foreground mulched pile with unmulched piles in background; S hwy 187 E side looking N
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180	12/7/2021	127_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northeast	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Before and after plucking; W side River looking NE
181	12/7/2021	127_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northeast	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Before and after plucking; W side River looking NE
182	12/7/2021	127_C.jpg	Coby Bartram	Northeast	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Before and after plucking; W side River looking NE
183	12/14/2021	128_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mulched and unmulched; E side river looking 1W 2N
184	12/14/2021	128_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mulched and unmulched; E side river looking 1W 2N
185	12/7/2021	129_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	Southwest	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	937 Barko Mulcher and Cat 259 with rake attached; E side River looking SW
186	12/7/2021	129_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	Southwest	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	937 Barko Mulcher and Cat 259 with rake attached; E side River looking SW
187	12/29/2021	130_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; W
188	12/28/2021	131_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	Northeast	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Excavator; NE
189	12/29/2021	132_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	potential regrowth in future, plant base not removed; E, looking down
190	12/28/2021	133_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Plucked salt cedar, pre-mulched; E
191	12/28/2021	134_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Excavator; N
192	12/29/2021	135_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; N
193	12/29/2021	136_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Potential regrowth in future (base of plant wasn't ripped out); W (facing down)
194	12/29/2021	137_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; E
195	12/28/2021	138_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Salt cedar, removed from ground, pre-mulched; N
196	12/28/2021	139_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	North	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Excavator; N
197	12/29/2021	140_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Potential regrowth in future (base of plant wasn't ripped out); W (facing down)
198	12/29/2021	141_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; W
199	12/28/2021	142_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	West	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Machine used to rake/ evenly distribute mulch; W
200	12/30/2021	143_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	Southwest	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Trash; SW
201	12/30/2021	144_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	South	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Dead birds, not sure what killed them; S
202	1/25/2022	145_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mulching before and after in same photo. South end of option 2; W side river looking N

203	1/25/2022	145_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Mulching before and after in same photo. South end of option 2; W side river looking N
204	12/16/2021	146_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	East	Area 3	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Excavator and skid; W side River looking E
205	12/20/2021	147_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	R350T Terex skid steering raking; W side River looking N
206	12/20/2021	147_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	North	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	R350T Terex skid steering raking; W side River looking N
207	12/16/2021	148_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Barko next to mulched piles; W side river looking W
208	2/1/2022	149_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	East	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape; E
209	2/1/2022	150_A.jpg	Nikki Gordon	Northeast	Area 2	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Landscape; NE
210	11/2/2021	151_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	Southwest	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	E side River; Looking SW
211	11/2/2021	151_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	Southwest	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	E side River; Looking SW
212	11/2/2021	152_A.jpg	Coby Bartram	South	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Before and after plucking; Looking S W
213	11/2/2021	152_B.jpg	Coby Bartram	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Before and after plucking; Looking S W
214	11/2/2021	152_C.jpg	Coby Bartram	South	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Before and after plucking; Looking S W
215	11/2/2021	152_D.jpg	Coby Bartram	West	Area 1	Rio Grande, Hatch, NM	Before and after plucking; Looking S W

IBWC Form 148(ESD) Updated 11/27/2018



Appendix B. Photographs

May 2023



Figure B-1. Mature Saltcedar Prior to Excavation (Photo #9)

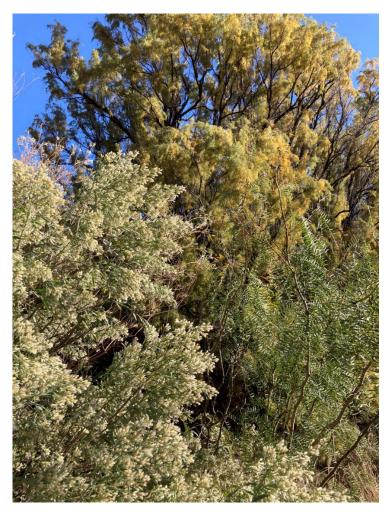


Figure B-2. Mature Saltcedar Prior to Excavation in Background with Willows and Mesquite in Foreground (Photo #11)



Figure B-3. Mature Cottonwood with Saltcedar in Foreground (Photo #1)

Figure B-4. Saltcedar and Mesquite (Photo #16)



Figure B-5. Mature Saltcedar and *Typha* sp. along Rio Grande Bank (Photo #5)

Figure B-6. Saltcedar with *Typha* sp. in Background (Photo #17)



Figure B-7. Rio Grande (Photo #41)



Figure B-8. Rio Grande (Photo #28)



Figure B-9. *Atriplex canescens*, "Four-wing Saltbush" (Photo #15)

Figure B-10. Rhus aromatica, "Skunk Bush" (Photo #12)



Figure B-11. *Prosopis* sp., "Mesquite" (Photo #93)

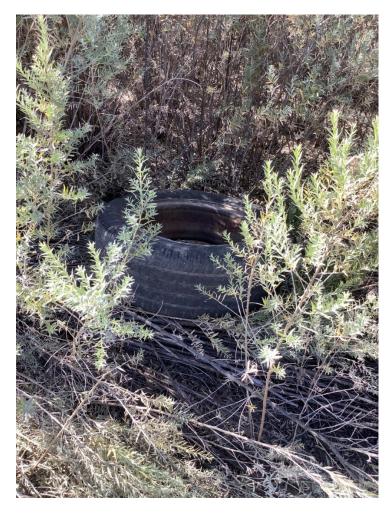


Figure B-12. Illegal Dumping, in *Pluchia sericea*, "Arrow Weed" (Photo #36)



Figure B-13. Illegal Dumping (Photo #48)



Figure B-14. Illegal Dumping (Photo #57)



Figure B-15. Saltcedar and Willows, Illegal Dumping (Photo #119)



Figure B-16. Illegal Dumping (Photo #45)



Figure B-17. Illegal Dumping (Photo #44)



Figure B-18. Illegal Dumping (Photo #59)



Figure B-19. Excavation in Progress (Photo #204)

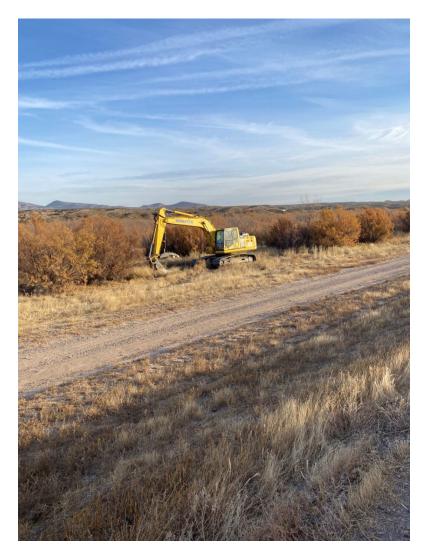


Figure B-20. Excavator (Photo #148)



Figure B-21. Excavated Saltcedar, Excavator in Background (Photo #188)



Figure B-22. 937 Barko Mulcher and Cat 259 with Rake Attached (Photo #186)



Figure B-23. Mulching and Raking in Progress (Photo #158)

Figure B-24. Mulching and Raking in Progress (Photo #152)



Figure B-25. 937 Barko Mulcher and Cat 259 with Rake Attached (Photo #193)



Figure B-26. Barko 937 Mulcher and Terex R350T Skid Steer with Toshhog Mulching Head (Photo #164)



Figure B-27. Mulch Pile (Photo #62)

Figure B-28. Mulch Pile (Photo #63)





Figure B-29. Arundo Mulch (Photo #64)

Figure B-30. Mulch Pile (Photo #65)



Figure B-31. Mulch Pile (Photo #177)



Figure B-32. Unmulched Saltcedar in Background (Photo #178)



Figure B-33. Resprouting Saltcedar (Photo #210)



Figure B-34. Resprouting Saltcedar (Photo #212)



Figure B-35. Resprouting Saltcedar (Photo #213)



Figure B-36. Resprouting Saltcedar (Photo #215)



Figure B-37. Resprouting Saltcedar (Photo #112)

Figure B-38. Resprouting Saltcedar (Photo #214)



## **C.0 CALCULATIONS FOR ESTIMATES**

## C.1 Removed Saltcedar (Volume)

Helpful conversions:

1 Acre = 
$$6,272,640 \text{ in}^2$$

The area for each mulch pile was multiplied by its respective height and then summed, resulting in 618,154,787.9 cubic inches. Cubic inches were converted to cubic feet:

$$618,154,787.9 \text{ in}^3 \times 1 \text{ ft } / 12 \text{ in} = 357726.2 \text{ ft}^3$$

Finally, cubic footage was converted to cubic yards, resulting in a total of 13,249.12 cubic yards mulched:

$$357,726.2 \text{ ft}^3 \times 1 \text{ yd}^3 / 3 \text{ ft}^3 \times 1 \text{ tt}^3 \times 1 \text{ yd}^3$$