



*Strategic control, education, and communication
fighting saltcedar on Montana waterways.*

**Salt Cedar Planning Meeting Summary
April 23rd, 2014
Garfield County Public Library, Jordan, MT**

Attendees: Dean Rogge (MRCDC and Garfield County CD), Bridget Nielsen (FWS), Carie Hess (Petroleum CD), Luke Stappler (Lower Musselshell CD), Laura Nowlin (Musselshell Watershed Coalition), Vicki Robinson (FWP), Gary Olsen (Wheatland County), Julie Goss (Richland CD), Tara Ostler (Garfield County CD) Mary Mayer (USDA ARS), Steve Smith (BLM), Brenda Witkowski (BLM), Eric Miller (MSU Extension), Kenny Keever (BLM), Brady Cannon (Fergus County), Meriel Beck (Golden Valley and Musselshell Counties), Pam Barnett (Petroleum County), Patricia Gilbert (ACOE) and Rachel Frost (MRCDC).

A kick-off meeting was held on April 23rd in Jordan, MT to assess interest in forming a group to strategically combat salt cedar within the Missouri and Musselshell River Basins of Montana. Representatives from multiple Conservation Districts and County Weed Boards, along with MT Fish Wildlife and Parks, US Fish and Wildlife Service (CMR), Bureau of Land Management, the Army Corp of Engineers, the USDA Agriculture Research Service, the Musselshell Watershed Coalition, and the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council attended the meeting. Each entity provided updates on the current known infestations along both rivers and information on projects that were planned or underway.

The group developed a list of resources that were available to combat salt cedar along with a list of things that were needed to improve the efficacy of control and education efforts.

Three priorities emerged from the meeting:

- 1. Control infestations strategically, working from the outermost known infestations downstream toward Fort Peck.** *Patricia Gilbert, ACOE, informed the group that there is an aerial spray project planned for multiple landowners in the Seven Blackfoot drainage on Fort Peck.*
- 2. Education of landowners and general public to encourage participation in salt cedar control efforts and correct identification of plants.**
- 3. Complete survey of salt cedar infestations needed from Great Falls to North Dakota border and in the Musselshell River Basin.** *This survey could be very coarse scale, just presence/absence of salt cedar by drainage.*

Action Items:

1. Each participant will send maps and any existing survey information (including areas known to be free of salt cedar) to Rachel for collection.
2. Rachel will contact Shantell Frame-Martin (MT Dept of Ag) about contracting her to create a comprehensive map from the collective data that we can continue to add information to as it is collected.
3. Each participant will identify areas that are a priority for survey and treatment to be submitted to Rachel for consideration in a grant proposal(s) for next summer.
4. Weed districts will consider potential dates for education events in their area and Eric Miller will contact Jane Mangold, MSU Extension Invasive Plant Management Specialist, about opportunities for educational workshops and seminars.

The Group decided to form an un-official partnership of all members present named the "Montana Saltcedar Team". It was agreed that a cooperative approach to salt cedar management was essential in Montana and strategic application of treatments was the best way to make meaningful progress.

The group will meet again on **August 27th from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Garfield County Public Library in Jordan** to discuss funding opportunities and progress toward mapping infestations.