

# East Rio Arriba Site Final Report



## Completed For

Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance

## Completed By



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## **Background**

This project was accomplished via grants through the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance (GRGWA) within the boundaries of the East Rio Arriba Soil and Water Conservation District.

## **Objective**

The primary objective of this project was to remove all non-native invasive species consisting primarily of Russian Olive (RO) and Siberian Elm (SE), with some Salt Cedar (SC) that may be encountered. Non-native phreatophytes consist of Russian Olive, Siberian Elm, Salt Cedar, Mulberry, and Tree of Heaven in this environment. A phreatophyte is a deep-rooted plant that obtains a significant portion of the water that it needs from the phreatic zone (zone of saturation) or the capillary fringe above the phreatic zone. Phreatophytes live in areas with standing water or running water, in arid areas along riverbeds and some apparently dry areas. These plants have very deep roots that reach the water table and consume very large amounts of water.

## **Description and scope of work**

Description:

The project is located in the Alcalde/Velarde area North of Espanola and contains 23.5 acres within the boundaries defined. Access was in the middle of the project via a road running East from CR 39. Additional access was not needed. The project is bound by the Rio Grande on the West, a fence on the East, an acequia diversion on the North and an acequia on the South. The Acequia de Alcalde runs North and South and near the East boundary and was dry from the access road headed North. The acequia was used to access the North areas.

The project is on private property with 7 separate landowners. Fences were encountered during the project work and dealt with at that time. An access gate was installed on the West side of the acequia to access the southern properties of the project. While on the Southern properties Horizon encountered one cross fence, a fence that paralleled the Rio Grande and an interior fence. The interior fence was removed by Horizon due to the lack of ability to work around it. The fence was very old and unused by the land owner. North of the access road, Horizon made one more gate and moved two more interior fences in order to access work areas. These fences were replaced to the extent possible (there were no fence posts prior to work, live trees were used as posts previously).

Scope of Work:

Horizon used numerous pieces of equipment to complete the scope of work. On site were two tracked skid steers, one excavator, three mastication heads, one heavy duty chipper, up to six chainsaws

and an access vehicle. Horizon utilized a work force of up to fifteen people. Daily safety meetings were held and open for discussions from the work force. No major safety issues were reported. Work days were up to ten hours long. Horizon crews stayed in a local hotel and worked around forty hours per week. A breakdown of equipment hours and labor hours is attached.

Horizon had several certified sprayers on site for the duration of work. This person's only job was to treat the stumps with herbicide after cutting. A map and breakdown of herbicide information is attached.

**Notes:**

There is a lot of firewood left on the site. Some landowners may have a difficult time accessing the firewood; as access is only through one landowner. Horizon was asked to leave access roads through the site to facilitate the removal of firewood. No interior fences were removed by landowners prior to the work. During the project a bald eagle was seen flying overhead and landing in several of the large cottonwood trees on the site.

**SITE MAP**



Salmon shade- Work area complete (23.5 acres)

Green Line- Leave fences

Yellow Line- Horizon removed or replaced fences

## BREAKDOWN OF HOURS

### Total Equipment Hours

ASV RC 100 and Loftness TimberAxe- 95.25  
ASV RC 60 and Grapple Bucket- 35  
Rayco Chipper- 109.5  
Kubota 080 Excavator with FAE Mastication Head- 55.5  
Kubota 080 Excavator with Bucket and Thumb- 20.25  
Chainsaw- 571.5  
RTV (access vehicle)- 19  
Backpack Spray Unit- 81

### Total Labor Hours

1,820

## BREAKDOWN OF HERBICIDE (see attachment for labels and MSDS)



Red shade- Habitat @ 10%

Orange shade- Polaris @ 10%



## PHOTOGRAPHS



Chipping



Sawyer planning areas to cut





Site during work



Excavator and FAE mastication head





Sawyer Work



Photo Point Locations





Point 1- Before work near large cholla cactus (looking east)



Point 1- After work near large cholla cactus (looking east)





Point 1- Before work near large cholla cactus (looking west)



Point 1- After work near large cholla cactus (looking west)





Point 2- Before work near large cottonwood tree (looking east)



Point 2- After work near large cottonwood tree (looking east)





Point 2- Before work near large cottonwood tree (looking west)



Point 2- After work near large cottonwood tree (looking west)





Point 3- Before work from gate (looking north)



Point 3- After work from gate (looking north)



**Completed Site Photos**



Completed area in southern portion of the site



Completed area in southern portion of site





Completed area in southern portion of site



Completed area in southern portion of site