



# NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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## **Making the Watershed Healthy**

BLM works with partners to reduce water-consuming invasive plants.

(Las Cruces)—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is once again teaming up with private landowners, local governments, and other federal agencies to get rid of invasive salt cedars that are sucking up the water in our local watersheds.

This project, part of a statewide effort to increase surface and subsurface water by reducing salt cedar, will treat 250 acres in the Northern Tularosa Basin. Salt cedar is a non-native tree species that invades riparian areas and out-competes other plants.

Starting Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, helicopters will drop a nontoxic herbicide called Arsenal that only affects an enzyme found in plants on the trees that can each use as much as 200 gallons of water a day. This treatment, planned for remote areas, will ensure the invasive plants are removed while wildlife is protected. In addition, this project will cost less money and be more effective than other treatments such as prescribed burns and mechanical clearing.

Over the last ten years the BLM has conducted numerous projects to improve watersheds in this area. Some past watershed initiatives are livestock management, erosion control structures to reduce sediment, and many brush and noxious weed control projects. Future projects include pinon – juniper fuel hazard reduction to protect communities in this watershed and improve forest health.

The BLM has many watershed management partners such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Forest Service, New Mexico State Land Office, Otero Soil and Watershed Conservation District, and private landowners.

- 30 -