



Yolo County & Cache Creek Conservancy join forces to remove tamarisk and Arundo from lower Cache Creek.

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### **DECEMBER, 2006 REPORT**

Yolo County contracted with the Cache Creek Conservancy to remove stands of tamarisk, arundo, and other non-native, invasive vegetation in the Jesus Maria reach of Cache Creek, consistent with the Cache Creek Resource Management plan. This is a four year contract ending in December, 2009. The Conservancy has completed its work for 2006.

Landowner agreements were obtained from all landowners prior to doing any work. One landowner allowed work to occur only on the lower bench of that property, but this was the most beneficial area to treat.

The project was done during two separate phases. The first phase was the cutting of tamarisk and arundo from five of the six designated areas. The work was done with an excavator using a cutting attachment which chops the vegetative matter allowing it to dry and compost on site. No burning was needed this year. The resprouts that occur next year will be treated chemically to kill the plant roots. A Flood Hazard Development Permit was obtained to do this work.

The second phase was spraying arundo with glyphosate at one of the sites (left bank, River Mile 12.5 to 12.9).

More work was done this year than was originally anticipated in the contract. Priority Areas #1-5 as listed in the contract were all completed except for a small area on the right bank (River Mile11.5) that was too steep to chop. In addition, invasive species were chopped in parts of Priority Areas #2 and #3 for Year 2007. Work began on September 11 with chopping with the excavator and ended on October 10. Spraying was done on October 14 and October 21, 2006. John Watson, Cache Creek Conservancy projects coordinator, served as project manager for this work.



Oliver's & Dewey's

North side of creek before

spraying or cutting.

Left Bank—RM 12.9

September 11, 2006

Dewey's Arundo before being sprayed.

September 27, 2006





Dewey's, the arundo was sprayed with Glyphosate on 10/21/2006

November 15, 2006



Across the creek from George
Oliver's walnut orchard prior
to treatment.

Left Bank-RM 12.3

September 15, 2006

Tamarisk chopped with excavator

October 6, 2006





October 6, 2006



Huff's corner Sandbar September 13, 2006

Huff's Corner September 15, 2006



Huff's corner after cutting with excavator.

September 29, 2006



Huff's corner sandbar, excavator in background.

September 13, 2006

Huff's corner September 15, 2006





Huffs corner after cutting with excavator

October 6, 2006



From sandbar at
Huff's corner, looking SE
RM 11.6
September 13, 2006

Sandbar Huff's corner after cutting with excavator

September 29, 2006





Huffs Corner Sandbar RM 11.6

September 13, 2006

Excavator on sandbar at Huffs corner.

September 13, 2006



Excavator cutting tamarisk at Huffs corner.

September 30, 2006



Workers removing tamarisk debris from water by Dewey's and Huffs corner during chopping.

RM 11.6

September 30, 2006





Dewey's by I-5 northwest side of creek, prior to treatment. Left Bank—RM 11.5

September 13, 2006



Dewey's by I-5 after cutting with excavator.

October 6, 2006



### **DECEMBER, 2007 REPORT**

Yolo County contracted with the Cache Creek Conservancy (CCC) to remove stands of tamarisk, arundo, and other non-native, invasive vegetation in the Jesus Maria reach of Cache Creek, consistent with the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan. This is a four year contract ending in December, 2009. The Conservancy has completed its work for the second year of the contract.

The contract lists four priority areas for 2007 work. Two of these (Priority Areas #2 and #3) were chopped in 2006. Priority Area #1 (Huff/Donker) was not done this year because of the other work being done at Huff's Corner, and also because water levels in the creek remained fairly high throughout the season. Priority #4 was herbicide treatment on areas previously chopped.

The CCC treated tamarisk, arundo, and Ravenna grass on the left (north) bank of the creek from RM 11.4 to approximately RM 12.3, but did not work in the immediate vicinity of the other project being done at Huff's Corner (Yolo County Planning & Public Works Department). Herbicide application occurred in June primarily for arundo and from October 17 through October 20 when water levels were low and plants were accessible. After that date tamarisk plants began to senesce and spraying was halted for the year. John Watson, CCC Projects Coordinator, served as project manager for this work.

In 2008 the CCC plans to treat the remaining invasive plants from the Kerr/B. Oliver properties (approximately RM 13.3) to RM 11.4, just above the Interstate 5 Bridge. Again work will be performed when water levels in the creek allow for access. We do not generally apply herbicides when application would need to be done over water.

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#### **NOVEMBER, 2008 REPORT**

Yolo County contracted with the Cache Creek Conservancy (CCC) to remove stands of tamarisk, arundo, and other non-native, invasive vegetation in the Jesus Maria reach of Cache Creek, consistent with the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan. This is a four year contract ending in December, 2009. The Conservancy has completed its work for the third year of the contract.

In 2008 the CCC planned to treat the remaining invasive plants from the Kerr/B. Oliver properties (approximately RM 13.3) to RM 11.4, just above the Interstate 5 Bridge. Much of this area had been mechanically chopped in 2006. This year work was done over six days during the last week of September, and consisted of chemical treatment of the entire project area on both sides of the creek. Tamarisk was the predominant invasive species in this reach, and the work crews also treated other invasive plants as they encountered them. These included Arundo, Ravenna grass, and a small amount of purple loosestrife. This work was performed when water levels in the creek were very low to non-existent, allowing for access. John Watson, CCC Projects Coordinator, served as project manager for this work.

In 2009 the CCC will use the remaining funding to monitor this entire area and manually or chemically treat any re-sprouts and seedlings of the targeted species. A "Native Vegetation Management Plan" will also be developed as called for in the contract.

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### **DECEMBER, 2009 REPORT**

Yolo County contracted with the Cache Creek Conservancy (CCC) to remove stands of tamarisk, Arundo, and other non-native, invasive vegetation in the Jesus Maria reach of Cache Creek, consistent with the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan. The Conservancy has completed its work for the fourth year of the contract. This was a four year contract ending in December, 2009. After discussions with Kent Reeves, the contract has been extended for six months to allow for some additional work on a more comprehensive revegetation plan for this area. There is no change in other contractual matters.

In 2009 the CCC staff monitored the area, noting amount of weed infestation. Earlier in the season (June, 2009) the Jesus Maria stretch was treated for Ravenna grass with an herbicide application. This work was funded under a Weed Management Area grant. This year contract work was done in September, and consisted of chemical treatment of the entire project area on both sides of the creek. Tamarisk was the predominant invasive species in this reach, and the work crews also treated other invasive plants as they encountered them. These included Arundo, some Ravenna grass (Saccharum ravennae) sprouts, and a few purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) plants. The area was also monitored for yellow flag iris (Iris pseudocorus). This work was performed when water levels in the creek were very low to non-existent, allowing for good access. This area of the creek has supported huge infestations of tamarisk making it difficult to apply herbicide to the entire clump of plants. In 2008 the outer edges of these clumps were treated, and this year it was possible to apply herbicide to the interior of these areas, thereby attaining desired control. John Watson, CCC Projects Coordinator, served as project manager for this work. John noted that there is a lot of pepperweed (Lepidium latifolium) in the Correll/Rodgers area.

In 2010 the CCC will monitor the area, note any invasive weed growth (GPS reference) and include a "Native Vegetation Management Plan" as part of a more comprehensive revegetation strategy. Specific sites warranting revegetation will be documented and a generic planting plan will be developed. This report will be prepared utilizing funding in the current contract.

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