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**COUNTY OF INYO
WATER DEPARTMENT**

October 18, 2009

TO: Dave Martin, Watershed Resource Specialist
FROM: Rick Puskar, Saltcedar Program Manager
SUBJECT: 2010 Annual Report

During the 2009-2010 field season (October to March) the Inyo County saltcedar field crew consisted of seven seasonal employees, one shared employee, and one permanent employee. Working in teams of three, workers cut and treated with herbicide, approximately 480 acres of saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) at various priority areas within the boundaries of the Lower Owens River Project (LORP) (Figure 1). Work was focused on eradicating plants in areas north of Billy Lake in water spreading basins bordering the Billy Lake-Two Culverts road. These spreading basins, dense with saltcedar, are reservoirs of viable seed. By cutting and treating these river adjacent basins, our long-term goal is to reduce the local seed bank and decrease the likelihood of reinfestation along the river.

Outside the north of Billy Lake area crews were guided by data received in the 2009 Rapid Assessment Survey (RAS) (Table 1). RAS 2009 GPS waypoints were used to guide crews to tamarisk seedling sites in their work area. All of the known, and discovered, recruitments and resprout sites were treated between river mile 16 and river mile 20.6.

The Saltcedar Control Program is funded by annual payments from Los Angeles Department of Water and Power specified under the Long Term Water Agreement. The program also receives grant funding from the California Wildlife Conservation Board with matching funds provided by LADWP up to \$1,500,000. As of September 2010, LADWP has provided \$967,241 in match funding to treat saltcedar in the LORP.

The Saltcedar Control Program has successfully supported the participation of the Owens Valley Conservation Camp in cooperation with Calfire and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in the use of controlled burns for reducing the amount of saltcedar slash in the project areas. The Saltcedar Control Program believes that an active "controlled burn

program” during the months of December through February is the safest and most cost effective method to reduce future slash piles in the LORP.

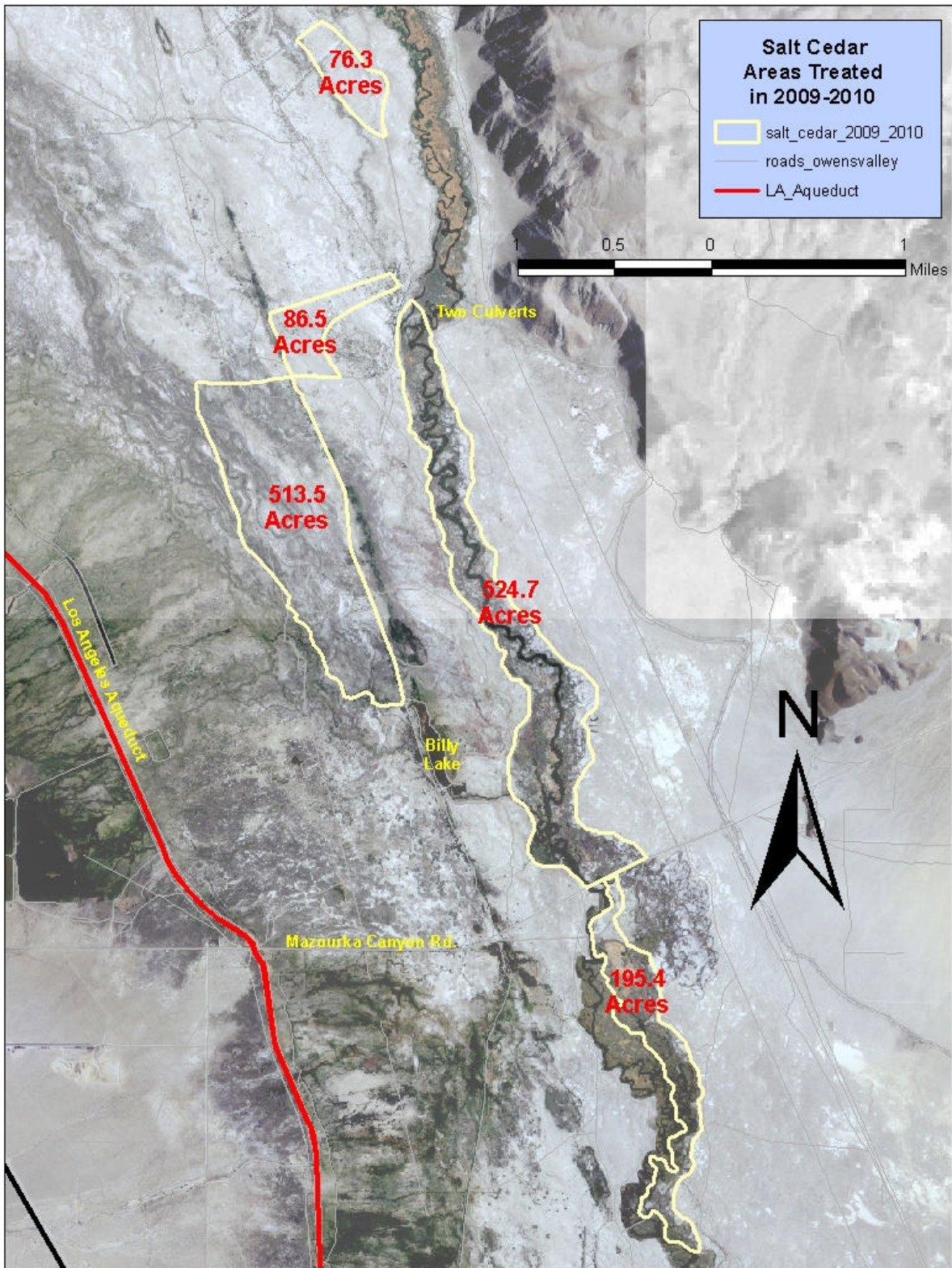


Figure 1. Boundaries of Areas Worked by the Inyo County Saltcedar Program in 2009-2010.

LOCATION	CODE	EASTING	NORTHING	DESCRIPTION
Two Culverts	TARA_SEED	398366	4075596	TARA seedlings and juvenile in middle of river
Two Culverts	TARA_SEED	397890	4077504	less than 1m height, spread for 20m along
Two Culverts	TARA_SEED	397920	4077342	Approx. 6 seedlings near GPS point
Two Culverts	TARA_SEED	398391	4075517	TARA seedlings in river channel
Two Culverts	TARA_SEED	398550	4075466	1 TARA seedling on bank

Table 1. Locations of Tamarisk Found by the RAS in 2009 and Treated by the Inyo County Saltcedar Program.