

US Bureau of Reclamation and Local Partners to Spray Invasive Vegetation at Twin Buttes Reservoir

San Angelo, Texas – The U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation in conjunction with its partners, the Upper Colorado River Authority, the City of San Angelo and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board are ready to begin work on the Twin Buttes Restoration Project. The ecosystem at Twin Buttes has been severely degraded by invasive vegetation. The first two species to be addressed will be willow baccharis (that covers over 1500 acres) and if conditions allow, mesquite (that covers over 4700 acres). Prolonged low lake levels have allowed the willow baccharis and mesquite to proliferate and choke out most native vegetation. These invasive species will be addressed by aerial application of herbicide via helicopter. Goals of the project are to increase the quantity and quality of riverine habitat, riparian woodland habitat, and lacustrine habitat, as well as increase seasonal stream flows and groundwater levels.

Pending favorable weather conditions, spraying will begin on May 20, 2010 and will continue as long as weather and certain other limiting constraints are met. For safety of the public, access to areas under treatment will be closed during aerial spraying activity. The City of San Angelo will also close boat ramps and the lake basin trails network during spraying in those areas. The campground and boat ramps will remain open when spraying is taking place at more remote areas of the lake basin and every effort will be made to keep the closures to a minimum.

For further information about this project, please contact Upper Colorado River Authority Project Manager Chuck Brown at 325-655-0565 (chuckb@ucratx.org).