Salt Cedar - Tamarix spp.

This deciduous shrub/small tree grows from 5-20 feet tall.

Reproduces from seeds, that can float on water, and from root shoots.

The stems have a reddish-brown bark.

Leaves are scale-like, similar to the Rocky Mountain Juniper, but finer.

Flowers are pink to white on the ends of the stems.

Also called “tamarisk”.

Salt cedar was introduced from Asia for erosion control. Each mature plant can transpire up to 200 gallons of water per day! This causes severe ecological damage to all native plants and animals depending on the water in an area. It is found in riparian areas on several creeks, drainages, reservoirs, and rivers throughout Natrona County.

CHEMICAL CONTROL:

Chemical control can be done by foliar, basal bark, and cut stump treatments. Contact your local weed and pest for specific recommendations.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL:

Diorhabda elongata leaf beetles and larvae feed on salt cedar foliage. At high numbers, they can cause plant fatality. An insectory has been established on Salt Creek in Midwest and is showing promise.