

Project Goals

Your participation is critical for documenting the success of saltcedar treatment in the upper Brazos River. With permission to access your property, we will be able to monitor the effectiveness of treatment and the resulting improvements in native plant community, riparian and river habitat, and water availability and quality. Our initial focus, especially for the monitoring, will be on the Double Mountain Fork and its tributaries, but not all sites will be selected for monitoring, because we will need to select a few key sites with different densities of saltcedar that are located at intervals within the basin (i.e., not too close together). When we visit with you to see firsthand the saltcedar problem on your property, we'll talk more and decide what type of monitoring is needed in your area and is acceptable to you. In the meantime, please review the information below about the monitoring types so we can answer your questions when we get a chance to visit.

1. **Monitoring Plant Community.** Biologists from TPWD will monitor how the plant community changes over time in response to the treatment. If you choose to participate in basic monitoring, you'll be agreeing to allow our biologists to access your property a couple of times a year to measure or count plants and take a look at the riparian and instream habitat. For more information, contact Monica McGarrity – Aquatic Invasive Species Team Leader; monica.mcgarrity@tpwd.texas.gov; 512-389-8292
2. **Monitoring Instream Habitat.** Habitat in the stream is often impacted or degraded by saltcedar. Our partners from Texas Tech will be studying river flow and how the river channel and habitats in the stream change over time at selected sites with either low or high density saltcedar. If you're interested in this project, researchers will need to visit the river on your property occasionally (up to 4 times per year) to monitor the flow and water quality and monitor changes in the channel. For more information, call Texas Tech University Researchers for questions—either Aaron Urbanczyk, 806-282-7150, aaron.urbanczyk@ttu.edu or Dr. Gene Wilde, 806-742-2710 ext 290, gene.wilde@ttu.edu
3. **Monitoring Hydrology.** Sites selected for hydrological/groundwater monitoring will help us to learn more about how saltcedar management influences water availability in the ground and river. Researchers will install small conductivity-temperature loggers like the one shown on the right. At two sites, they'll install soil moisture and other sensors in shallow test holes. TPWD or our partners at UT-Austin will need to visit up to four times a year. For more information, contact Kevin Mayes – Aquatic Biologist, River Studies Program; kevin.mayes@tpwd.texas.gov; 512-754-6844 ext 225

