



Twin Valley Weed Management Area
 20 N. Webster St., - Suite 115
 Red Cloud, NE 68970
 Phone: 402-746-3560 – Fax: 402-746-3562
 tvwm@gpcom.net

Work accomplishments and ongoing projects of the Twin Valley Weed Management Area (TVWMA)

The TVWMA committee was formed in 2004 in an attempt to provide ongoing efforts to eradicate invasive species, control vegetation instream channels, and improve riparian habitat along the Republican River and their tributaries within the TVWMA counties. Control efforts are conducted in a holistic manner, utilizing a full range of mechanical, biological and chemical tools.

The project involves a resource-based strategy undertaken with the belief that sustainability of our water resources as well as compliance with our state's obligations under the 1943 Republican River Compact will be achieved only through multiple and varied long-term actions as opposed to singular short-term reactions to an immediate crisis. We must not only consume less water over time on a local level as spearheaded by the NRDs, but also we must waste less water through consumption by invasive, non-beneficial plant species and prevent wasteful localized flooding at river and tributary choke-points where accumulated woody debris causes water to spill its banks where it simply feeds more of these non-beneficial plant species. The approach is also regional, not only across the counties served by TVWMA, but also across the additional counties upriver of our area being served by the Southwest Weed Management district in a coordinated working relationship with TVWMA. Between the combined efforts of the TVWMA, SWWM, the Nebraska Environmental Trust, Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture, and all project partners, prevention of water wastage through consumption by non-beneficial plant species is being proactively addressed across the entire riparian region of southwest and southcentral Nebraska from the Colorado border to the eastern edge of our district.

Second, the project includes multiple activities to inform and educate participating landowners regarding sound management practices as well as the general public to ensure widespread understanding and peer-support of the involved landowners.

Third, the project recognizes and deeply respects local community social and economic values regarding conservation actions, which values require that every possible means of conservation that does not result in profound damage to local economies and individual finances must first be undertaken and implemented before there will be social tolerance of those that do. Serious "water wars" may yet turn out to be an unavoidable reality across the Midwest in the future, and interstate and intra-state user conflicts are already evident even in the present time; however, this particular project has been and continues to be widely supported exactly because it enhances the prospect for attaining sustainability of water-resources without threatening the livelihood of those who depend on those resources.

Fourth, this project utilizes efficiencies of delivery and maximizes available resources through inter-governmental and public-private partnerships to achieve what would be far more cumbersome and costly—and possibly truly unmanageable and unenforceable—if it were to be left to each individual landowner along rivers and tributaries to conduct the large-scale removal of invasive species and debris that is necessary to have a significant and widespread impact on conservation.