

Proposed Management Actions

USACE has identified the following vegetation management practices to be considered in developing the vegetation management plan:

(a) Invasive species management:

- Mechanical removal aboveground - cutting and mulching saltcedar or other invasive woody plants above ground level.
- Mechanical removal below ground - removal of root balls in areas where the soil is not sensitive to disturbance and cultural resources are not present.
- Herbicide treatments following an approved pesticide management plan.
- Hand removal (cutting or pulling by hand) in small or environmentally sensitive areas.
- Disposal of cut material could include chipping or mulching, creating brush piles, hauling off-site to a landfill/disposal site, or pile burns, with an approved fire management plan. Firewood may be offered to the public if trees are cut.
- Only aquatic approved herbicides will be applied below the ordinary high-water mark of the lake or where there is a possibility of herbicide drifting over water.

(b) Management of natural and wildlife areas with predominantly native vegetation:

- These areas need little management and will be left undisturbed.
- Reseeding disturbed areas within natural areas with native grasses and wildflowers.
- Firebreaks along property and management area boundaries (for preventing wildfire and containing prescribed burns).
- Prescribed fire, which can be helpful in maintaining grasslands, would be addressed in a separate fire management plan to be developed later.

(c) Recreation areas:

- Hazard tree management including pruning or removal if necessary.
- Shade trees will be maintained, watered, pruned as needed, and replaced when unhealthy.
- The historic aesthetic look of the Historic District would be preserved by maintaining shade trees.
- Mowing / trimming around campsites and buildings, including raking and disposing material.
- Replacing aging unhealthy trees with appropriate species.

(d) Operations and Maintenance (O&M) areas including the dam, roads, and infrastructure:

- The woody vegetation-free zone required for dam safety would be maintained by mowing the toe of the dam, cutting brush and trees that establish within the zone, and use of herbicides as needed.
- Mowing road edges and around buildings.
- Saltcedar removal using methods described under "Invasive species management."

(e) Restoring disturbed or degraded areas by planting native vegetation:

- Seeding disturbed areas with native grasses and wildflowers following invasive vegetation removal or other disturbance.
- Planting cottonwood and willow poles in riparian areas, and planting container trees or shrubs in landscaped areas or in areas with access to water.