

Locations of areas where projects will take place and brief descriptions and scope of work

**Contractors should be or become familiar with these areas prior to bidding on any projects in order to be familiar with tree densities, soil types, topography, water levels where appropriate, area roads, towns, lodging, etc.

Loess Canyons – this is the largest geographic area that we will be working in and is located SE of North Platte. The area is bordered roughly by the edge of the Platte Valley on the north, Highway 83 on the west, Highway 23 on the south and Highway 47 to the east.

- Primary Contact – Lara Fondow, Loess Canyons Coordinator (308) 535-8025
- Secondary Contacts – Tim Hermansen or T. J. Walker (308) 535-8025
- All projects within this area will include removal of eastern red cedar. Some may include removal of limited amounts of elm, ash, cottonwood, box elder or other deciduous trees. In the vast majority of projects, due to cost/benefit ratio, cedars will only be removed from ridge tops, hill tops, canyon bottoms and gradually sloped areas where it is safe to operate machinery.
- In some areas, chainsaw work on steeper slopes may take place.
- For the most part, trees should be piled in flat and relatively open portions of the landscape away from other fuel that could burn during pile removal (bottoms of valleys are best, gradual slopes and tops are OK). In some cases, if the landowner wants to “stuff” the cut trees under other trees on steep slopes, this activity & pile locations will need to be approved by NGPC staff.
- Native shrubs (sumac, plum, “buckbrush” (snowberry), sagebrush, yucca, etc.) will typically be left uncleared as they are an important component of this landscape. Where necessary, native shrubs may be removed if cedars are located within the shrubs. Each project description should include details on all of the above.
- Please note that slight amounts of rainfall make canyon roads and slopes in pastures dangerous. Remind employees of this and other dangers associated with canyon landscapes and vehicle/machinery usage.

- Keep in mind that the American burying beetle (Federally endangered insect) is present in these canyons. If you see a large (about 2 inches long) black and orange beetle, please take care to NOT harm it. Get information on this species from NGPC staff if you are awarded a project in the Loess Canyons.



American burying beetle

North Platte River – The primary focus area for this project is just upriver (west) from the Highway 83 North Platte River Bridge just north of North Platte. The area begins about ½ mile west of the bridge and ends in the area of the Buffalo Bill State Recreation Area (north of the Lincoln County Fairgrounds). If additional funding is acquired the project area could extend east or west (more likely west).

- Primary Contact – Tim Hermansen (308) 535-8025
- Secondary Contact – T. J. Walker (same number)
- All projects within this area will include removal of Russian olive and eastern red cedar, and may include removal of cottonwoods (primarily less than 8 inches in diameter), willow, ash, salt cedar, elm and other deciduous trees. The majority of this activity will take place on “higher” sandy soils but may include some area on each project in “silty” and muddy soil.
- Trees on edges of riverbanks and wetlands are important to get and may require chainsaw work – there will not be large numbers in this situation.
- Thick stands of willow, indigo and other shrubs might be included for clearing, or partial clearing. Other native shrubs will likely be spared.
- “Dog-hair” stands of young cottonwoods may be removed or thinned depending upon their location and the emphasis of the project. Each project description should include details on all of the above.

- On some projects there will be “island clearing” where islands within the river will be completely cleared of all woody vegetation. IF this is outlined within a project description, contractors should visit the site prior to bidding to determine if they will need additional equipment to cross river channels or what other increased expenses might result from channel crossings.
- Tree piles should be placed appropriately, in open areas with relatively flat ground. They should NOT be placed in wetlands, side channels or other low-lying areas that could hold water or have water flowing through them. Tree piles on islands should be centered on the island as much as possible.
- Phragmites control? This will probably go as a separate project, but may also be included as a potential bidding option within these tree removal projects. Treatment in this case would most likely include chemical application, NGPC staff can provide a list of potential chemicals for contractors if needed.
- Please note that unlike most river sections, this portion of the river has higher flows from June through September, due to irrigation water flowing down the river. Due to this fact, some portions of project sites may not be good to work in between July 15th and when the irrigation water delivery subsides. In addition, there may be scheduled “spring rises” that may also create less than ideal conditions. Keep in contact with NGPC staff to determine water levels and flow change plans.
- Within this portion of the river, Sandhill Cranes commonly roost on and around sandbars from late February through mid-April. During this time, tree removal activities may be restricted to certain areas before 9:00 AM and after 6:00 PM. And IF Whooping Cranes (Federally endangered bird species) would show up, these times and tree removal activities may be restricted even more – once again, work with us on this and we will work with you.

Republican River – The primary focus area for this project is just upriver (west) from the west end of Swanson Reservoir and the Wildlife Management Area on the west end of the reservoir (just south of Stratton) extending west to the Hitchcock/Dundy County line. If additional funding is acquired, the project area will extend farther west.

- Primary Contact – T. J. Walker (308) 535-8025
- Secondary Contact – Tim Hermansen (same number)
- All projects within this area will include removal of Russian olive and also likely eastern red cedar. They may also include removal of cottonwoods (primarily less than 8 inches in diameter), willow, ash, salt cedar, elm and other deciduous trees. The majority of this activity will take place on “higher” sandy soils but may include some area on each project in “silty”/muddy soil.
- Trees on edges of riverbanks and wetlands are important to get and may require chainsaw work – there will not be large numbers in this situation.
- Thick stands of willow, indigo, sagebrush and other shrubs might be included for clearing, or partial clearing. Other native shrubs will likely be spared. Each project description should include details on all of the above.
- On some projects there will be “island clearing” where islands within the river will be completely cleared of all woody vegetation. IF this is outlined within a project description, contractors should visit the site prior to bidding to determine if they will need additional equipment to cross river channels or what other increased expenses might result from channel crossings.
- Tree piles should be placed appropriately, in open areas with relatively flat ground. They should NOT be placed in wetlands, side channels or other low-lying areas that could hold water or have water flowing through them. Tree piles on islands should be centered on the island as much as possible.
- Please note that reservoir levels at Swanson can impact the water table in this area and there could be a fair amount of saturated soil in some locations, especially on the “lower shelf” of the accretion ground and especially toward the east end of the project area.