

Wayne Allard

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SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE APPROVES ALLARD'S TAMARISK CONTROL BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Senate Energy Committee has approved legislation co-sponsored by U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) on Wednesday, along with Senator Pete Domenici (R-New Mexico) for the control and eradication of the salt cedar plant, also known as the tamarisk.

The tamarisk has invaded the margins of streams, lakes and wetlands throughout the Western United States. An individual plant can consume up to 200 gallons of water per day, which has exacerbated drought conditions in the West, and is highly disruptive to native habitats and species.

“The tamarisk is causing severe problems throughout the West,” Senator Allard said. “The Energy Committee’s approval of the Salt Cedar Control Demonstration Act marks a significant step in the ongoing effort by Congress to provide critical resources for the removal of this invasive species.”

“Eradication of this unquenchable shrub will save water, lower salinity levels and create a more congenial habitat for the Southwest Willow Flycatcher and a number of other riparian species,” Senator Allard said. “This is an important element in mitigating the water shortages and environmental damage associated with the tamarisk.”

The bill will provide millions of dollars to states and public/private partnerships to control and eradicate the tamarisk.

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