

American Legion Auxiliary  
New Mexico Girls State  
2016 Bill/Resolution



Committee: Environment      Principal Author: Hannah McCurley  
Bill No.: Senate 37          Delegation: ALA NM Girls State 2016  
Status: Passed by Legislature and Governor

Title of Bill: Tamarix Removal Act

1                    **Be It Enacted By The American Legion Auxiliary New Mexico Girls State 2016**

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3                    **Section I. Body:** The removal of the harmful invasive species Tamarix from our  
4 river banks as their presence threatens native plant and wildlife species  
5 alike. Equipped with long taproots, the fire-adapted species are likely to  
6 monopolize limited water resources, outcompete and replace native plant  
7 species, and increase the frequency of fires and floods as well as their  
8 intensity if not contained and removed. Both manual and chemical labor (e.g.  
9 root cutting, systematic herbicides, cut stump treatments, and foliar sprays)  
10 will be employed to remove the invasive species. Native river trees (e.g.  
11 cottonwoods) will be planted in order to maintain the ecosystem.

12                    **Section II. Definitions:**

13                    As used by the "Tamarix Removal Act"  
14                    A. "Tamarix" being the non-native, invasive freshwater plants more commonly  
15 known as Salt Cedar Trees  
16                    B. "taproots" being the long, central, and most dominant root from which  
17 smaller roots sprout laterally. Tamarix taproots allow them to intercept deep  
18 water tables to steal from freshwater reserves.  
19                    C. "systematic herbicides" being herbicides that kill plants from the root  
20 up.  
21                    D. "cut stump treatments" being an herbicide solution applied directly to  
22 stump tops immediately after cutting down the plant to prevent new growth  
23                    E. "foliar sprays" being the method of applying herbicides directly to a  
24 plant's leaves.

25                    **Section III. Penalty:**

26                    This program shall be monitored by the New Mexico Environment Department.  
27                    A. Jobs will be created in order to build Tamarix removal teams.  
28                    B. All Tamarix plants along the river banks will be removed through approved  
29 methods.  
30                    C. Native cottonwoods will be planted after Tamarix removal to provide food  
31 and shelter to native wildlife species.

32                    **Section IV. Repeal:** All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in  
33 the Constitution of the State of New Mexico in conflict with any provision of  
34 this act are hereby repealed.

35                    **Section V. Effective Date:** The provisions of this act shall be effective on  
36 and after January 1, 2016