

2011 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST REPORT
THEME “ATTRACTING MATCHING FUNDS”
TWIN VALLEY WEED MANAGEMENT EASTERN REPUBLICAN RIPARIAN
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – 2011 GRANT AWARD - \$545,000

For a quick summary, the project area consists of 142-mile stretch of the Republican River from the Cambridge, NE diversion eastward to the Nebraska-Kansas state line just south of Hardy, NE. There are a total of 280 different landowners that own property adjacent to the river bank.

Primary focus of project is to 1) remove debris and logjams from the river channel that impedes river flow and 2) reduce invasive vegetation that is consuming moisture. The intent is to try and avoid lawsuit by Kansas for not delivering their quota of water across the state line.

Because of the magnitude and complexity of the project, it requires numerous partners and matching funds. Partners included: Natural Resource Conservation Service, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lower Republican NRD, Trailblazer RC&D, National Turkey Federation, Harlan County Corp of Engineers, Nebraska Department of Agriculture, South Central Public Power, County Boards within the TVWMA, Extension Service, and Landowners along the river.

Table I is attached showing the 2011 matching fund sources and dollar values (either in funds or volunteer labor).

The success of this project is due basically to landowners involvement and when landowners get involved and voice their opinion, all other entities: i.e. federal, state and local government wants to be involved and be a part of the solution. We have also had excellent visibility with positive featured news articles from local and regional news media.

The Republican Valley has a lot at stake from an economic point of view, which is also the reason for the numerous partners involved. If this lawsuit by Kansas is heard and approved, it would require irrigation along the valley to shut down their wells for extended periods of time. All interested partners feel it is imperative to get involved.

**TABLE I
MATCHING FUNDS AND IN-KIND**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Value</u>
*All-terrain vehicle	Lower Republican NRD	
Trade in for new:		\$ 12,500
Maintenance & Upkeep		\$ 5,068
*Information & committee meetings Site Showings, Tours & Promotion	TVWMA & Partners	\$ 37,161
*Office space & supplies	TVWMA	\$ 6,958
*Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)	CCPI Nebraska Game & Parks Lower Republican NRD TVWMA Turkey Federation Landowners (15% of cost) TOTAL:	\$245,994
*Field work assistance	Landowners & Partners	\$ 3,897
*Invasive Vegetation Control	Co. Weed Supt. & Corp of Eng.	\$ 2,688
MATCHING FUNDS AND IN-KIND TOTAL:		\$314,266



Pictured above is Mike Clements, Lower Republican NRD General Manager with new Argo all-terrain vehicle that was purchased.



Pictured above is tree shearing along the river by Frahm Construction.



Pictured above is Todd Weverka, Furnas County Weed Superintendent spraying invasive vegetation in the river channel.