Invasive Species Factsheet-Russian Olive
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Species Common Name: Russian Olive
Species Scientific Name: *Elaeagnus angustifolia*

Native Range and Introduction: This species is native to Eurasia. It was introduced in the early 1900's as a horticultural plant, primarily as a wind break and shade species. After introduction, it was planted throughout the United States for the same reasons. This species is not known to have invasive characteristics in the northeast, while in the western United States it is extremely invasive in riparian areas.

Description: Fast growing tree species that can reach heights of 15 to 25 feet. Its branches and trunk have large thorns and grow in a twisted irregular fashion. It has long thin leaves that are a chalky green on the top and gray on the bottom. It forms clusters of small yellow flowers that mature to fruits that are olive shaped and first appear gray then turn brown as they mature. It can have growth points on multiple areas on the twisted trunks, which makes control difficult. This species seems to be invasive in one landscape (riparian areas/drainages) while not invasive in others (Uplands).

Ecological and Environmental Threats: Its threat is primarily ecological as it out competes native tree species (i.e. plains cottonwood) along waterways in the western United States. This can cause other problems as they form dense patches, making the water source more difficult to reach for livestock and wildlife.

Regulated Status in Wyoming: Russian Olive is on Wyoming Designated Noxious Weed List; it was added in 2006.

Distribution in Wyoming: This species occurs in all counties in Wyoming besides Lincoln County.

Control Options:

Mechanical: Only works for a short period by itself. This could include cutting, shearing, or mulching the tree.

Chemical: Foliage applications with Element 4 (Tricloypr) can be done, but requires a lot of solution as you must cover the entire foliage, a better option is stump treatment after mechanical removal.

Biological: Goats can be used to browse on sucker regrowth after other forms of treatment.

Integrated Weed Management: Would be using mechanical control to remove the species near the base and applying a herbicide to the freshly cut stump. May need to return the next year for herbicide application on any new suckers that are appearing or allow goats to browse the area.

Online Resources:

URL: https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/russolive.shtml
URL: http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=3022
Image 1: https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5452459
Image 2: https://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5500216

Image 1-Leaves and Fruits

Image 2- Mature Tree

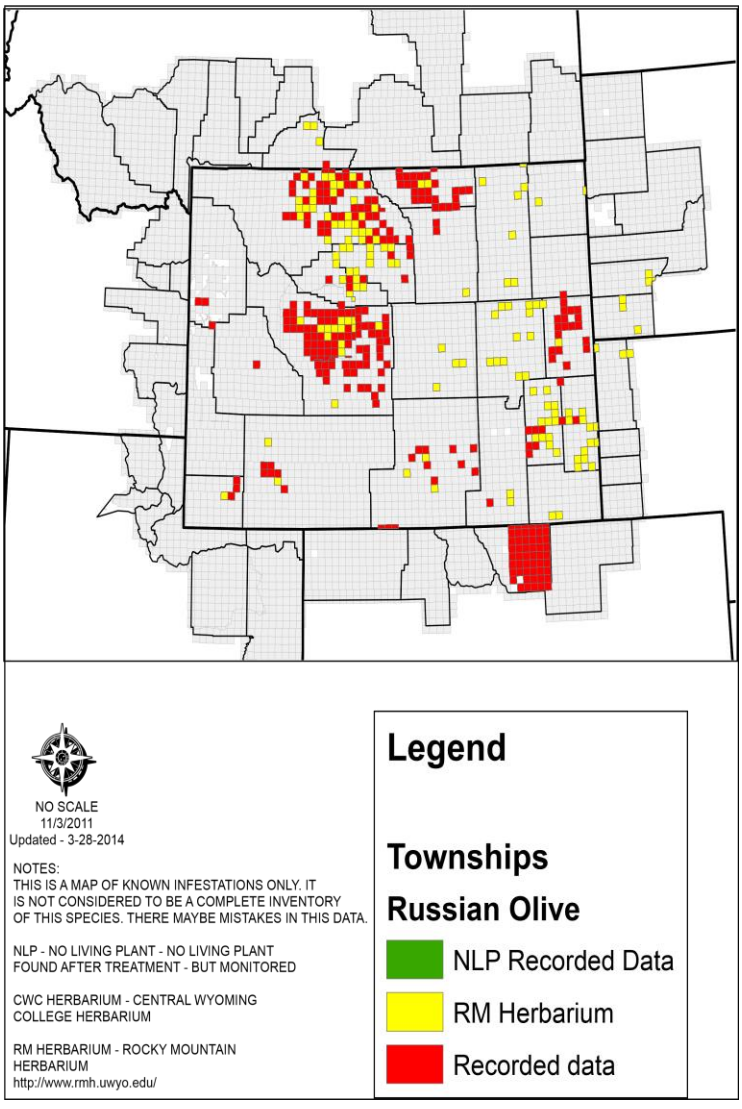

Figure 1-Russian Olive distribution in Wyoming and Surrounding States
URL: http://wyoweed.org/images/Weed_Maps/Russian_olive.pdf