

## **Black Hills RC&D Success Stories**



### **WHIP Saltcedar Demonstration Project**

The Cheyenne River in South Dakota has been identified by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture as an area highly infested with saltcedar. The Black Hills RC&D saw an opportunity through the NRCS WHIP program to develop a special demonstration project that could manage the saltcedar infestation and improve wild turkey habitat along the river. A partnership was organized by the Black Hills RC&D with the National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, the Fall River Weed and Pest and DuPont. In August of 2009 over 500 acres on 85 miles of the Cheyenne River in Fall River County was

treated to eliminate saltcedar. 23 landowners signed up under WHIP and the remainder of the landowners were compensated through funds provided through the Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy and the Fall River Weed and Pest. As a result of this partnership 100% of the cost on private land was compensated for through a combination of programs and grants.



### **2009 South Dakota Forestry Best Management Practices Field Audits**

In 2008 the Black Hills Forestry Association approached the Black Hills RC&D for assistance in locating funding to conduct field audits on six forest harvest sites in the Black Hills. The Lawrence County Conservation District saw the value in the project and agreed to submit a grant through the South Dakota Department of Agriculture as a Conservation Grant. The objective of these audits were to help federal, state, and private foresters, logging professionals, and resource managers gauge BMP effectiveness and

identify weaknesses in implementation and compliance of BMPs. Users of these lands along with taxpayers will benefit from BMP Audits, by having a more effective use of appropriated funds for management projects that involve implementation of BMPs. This will ultimately lead to a mitigation in non-point source pollution, an increase in overall environmental health, and the ability to educate federal, state, and local agencies on the benefits of correct BMP implementation. Many thanks to Carson Engelskirger from the Black Hills Forestry Association for organizing and leading the project.