

## **Farasita/Badito Tamarisk Restoration Phase 1**

The Upper Huerfano Conservation District has a proud history of conservation projects. The Huerfano County Water Conservancy District was pleased to cooperate with UHCD by serving as fiscal agent for phase 1 of its Farasita/Badito area phreatophyte treatment project. The project, managed wholly by UHCD, is a \$136,000 five-year effort of phreatophyte control on 120 acres under the Garcia Ditch in the Huerfano River basin – shown in the accompanying aerial photograph.

HCWCD was particularly interested in facilitating this project because of its water-saving effect. By replacing non-beneficial phreatophytes (primarily water-loving Russian Olive and Tamarisk/Salt Cedar) with native vegetation, up to one acre foot of water will be salvaged for every acre of phreatophyte control. Under Colorado law, that salvaged water will accrue to the river, available to water rights in order of their priority.

In addition to UHCD, funding for the project came from a variety of sources, including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Colorado State Land Board, involved landowners and, most significantly, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (\$68,000). In-kind assistance was also provided by the Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners, Colorado State University Extension, Colorado Department of Agriculture, and the Colorado State Forest Service.