

**By Carolyn Lee**

***The Imperial Republican***

Thanks to a request from the Western Plains Long Beards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, areas along the Republican River near Swanson Reservoir and Frenchman Creek at Enders Reservoir will soon be cleared of invasive trees. The removal and planting of food plots in the area will enhance habitat for wild turkeys.

Duane Dreiling, president of the local chapter, said he applied for money for the project from the Nebraska State Chapter. It allocated \$12,000 for the total project.

The Swanson Wildlife Management Area (WMA) receives \$3,000 for the removal of invasive eastern red cedar and Russian olive trees from cottonwood stands along the Republican River in Hitchcock County.

Cottonwood trees are the primary native roosting trees for wild turkeys in western Nebraska.

Nine thousand dollars has been allocated for removing honey locust and Siberian elms from cottonwood stands along Frenchman Creek on the Enders WMA in Chase County.

Dreiling said the projects have already begun and are to be completed this year.

He said 10 food plots will be planted to lure turkeys to the area. The plots consist of oats, milo, alfalfa, corn, soybeans and possibly turnips.

Boy Scout troops will help plant the plots in May.