Pollinator Habitat

Question: Can we transform streambanks from invasive species to pollinator habitats?

Showy Milkweed:
• Grows along streambeds in moist sites
• Tolerant to alkaline soils

Funding Sources:
• NRCS EQIP: Pollinator Habitat
  • Landowner cost share program
• NFWF: Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation Fund
  • Technical assistance for private working lands with EQIP ($100,000-$300,000)
  • Habitat improvement ($50,000-$75,000)
Mycorrhizal Fungi

Background:

• Symbiotic mycorrhizal fungi can assist vegetation with nutrition, drought resilience, pests, disease, and more (more research is needed)
• Invasive plant species and certain management actions can negatively impact the mycorrhizal community

Management actions:

• Add “living soil” to “dead soil”
• Create mycorrhizal inoculum from healthy sites

Warnings:

• Be sure to use similar site characteristics to avoid introducing a new fungi to the site
• Research is limited to tamarisk, it is unknown if Russian olive uses the mycorrhizal fungi
Wood Decomposers

Is there a native fungi that decomposes tamarisk and Russian olive?

Benefits:
• Decompose piles - no burning needed
• Adds nutrients to soil plants can take up

Homework:
• Collect samples
• Pictures
• GPS point