

Natural Vegetation Establishment on Gravel Bars

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Research Question

- Is native vegetation establishing on point bars?

Methods

- 18 marked transects on six point bars between RM 172 and 233.
- Transects inventoried for cottonwood and willows in 2002, 2003 and 2008
- Relative elevation (height above river) also recorded



Newly established cottonwoods and willows on a point bar

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

- Most colonization occurred where the relative elevation above the low-flow river was between 1.0 and 1.7m
- Comparisons among years show that the net establishment of vegetation is low
- Erosion is significant, although some pockets of early establishment in 2002 have developed into mature willow and cottonwood forest