Lessons Learned

ASSUMPTIONS AND REALITIES OF RESTORATION ALONGSIDE THE BEETLE

Dr. Sarah Sayles, Executive Director

GILA WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP OF ARIZONA

Assumptions

The beetle will be here in 7 years

A small crew can take on a multi-million dollar project

Time and resources are key

Lesssons Learned

Early funding pros and cons

Nature had its own ideas

New best practices were learned

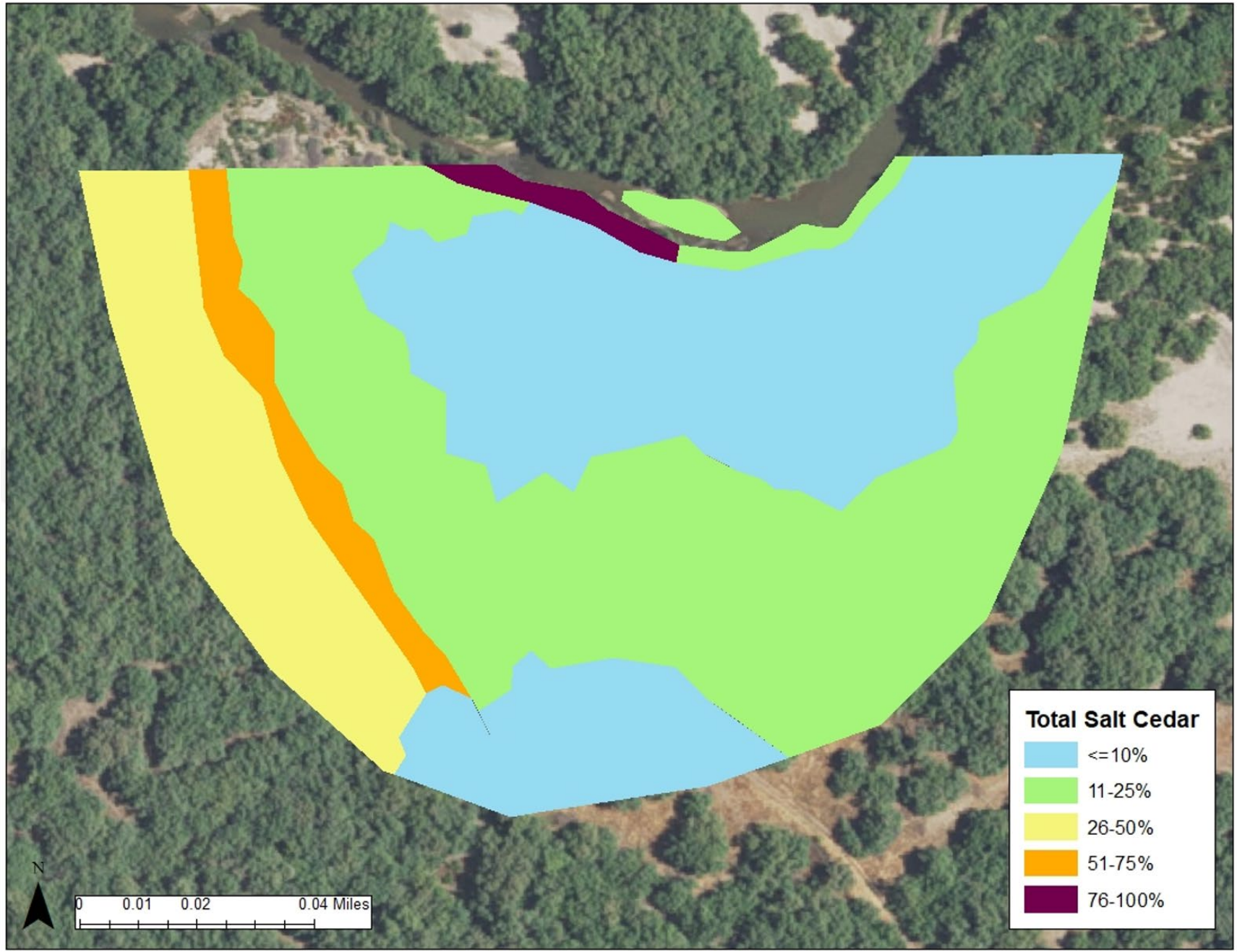
Funding

Walton funding

Did the funding come too soon?

- The size and breadth of the funding completely changed GWP
- The expectations for the arrival of the beetle were premature
- Funding ran out before the projects could really begin to cooperate with the beetle

2019 Tamarisk Monitoring - R08 (last year of funding)



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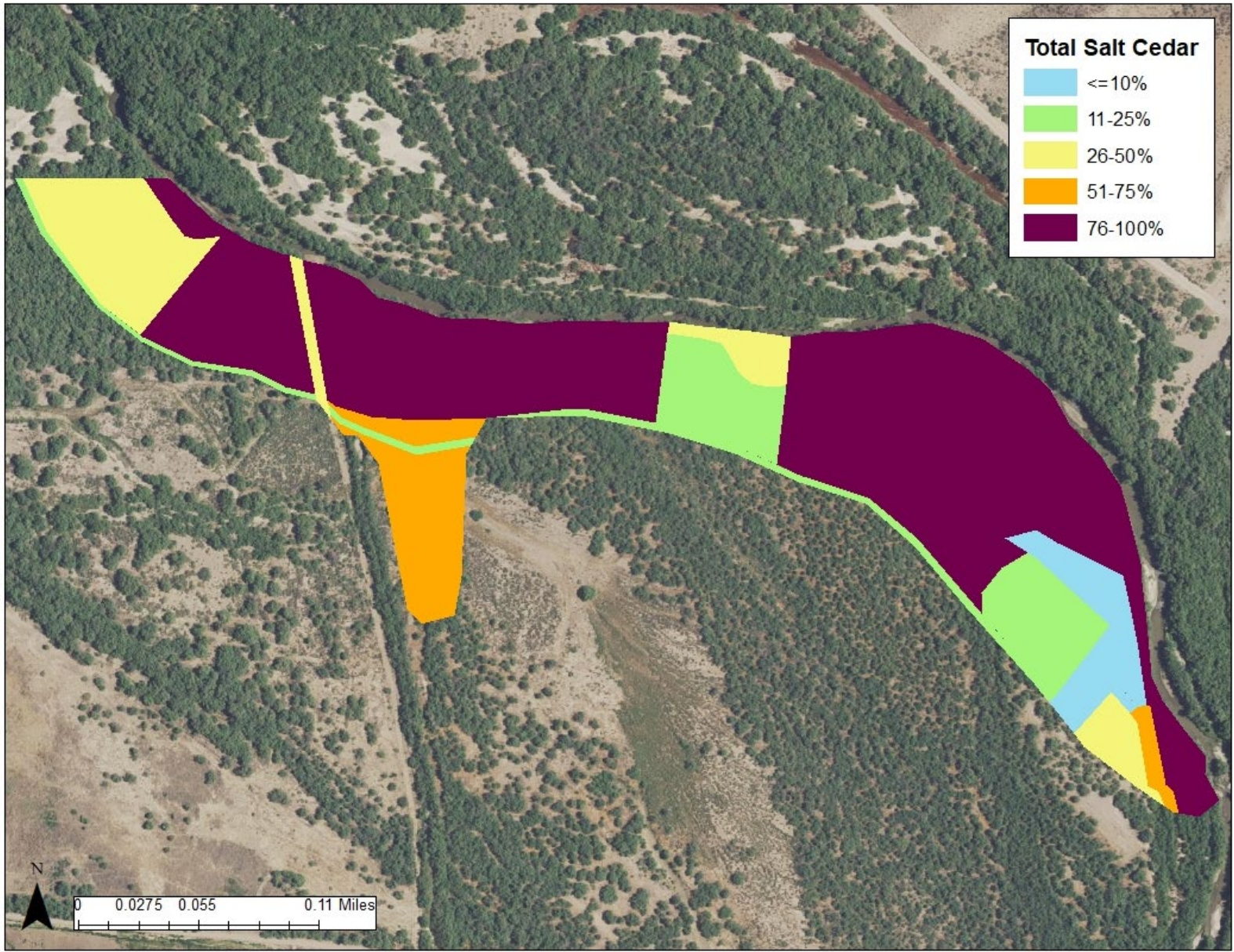
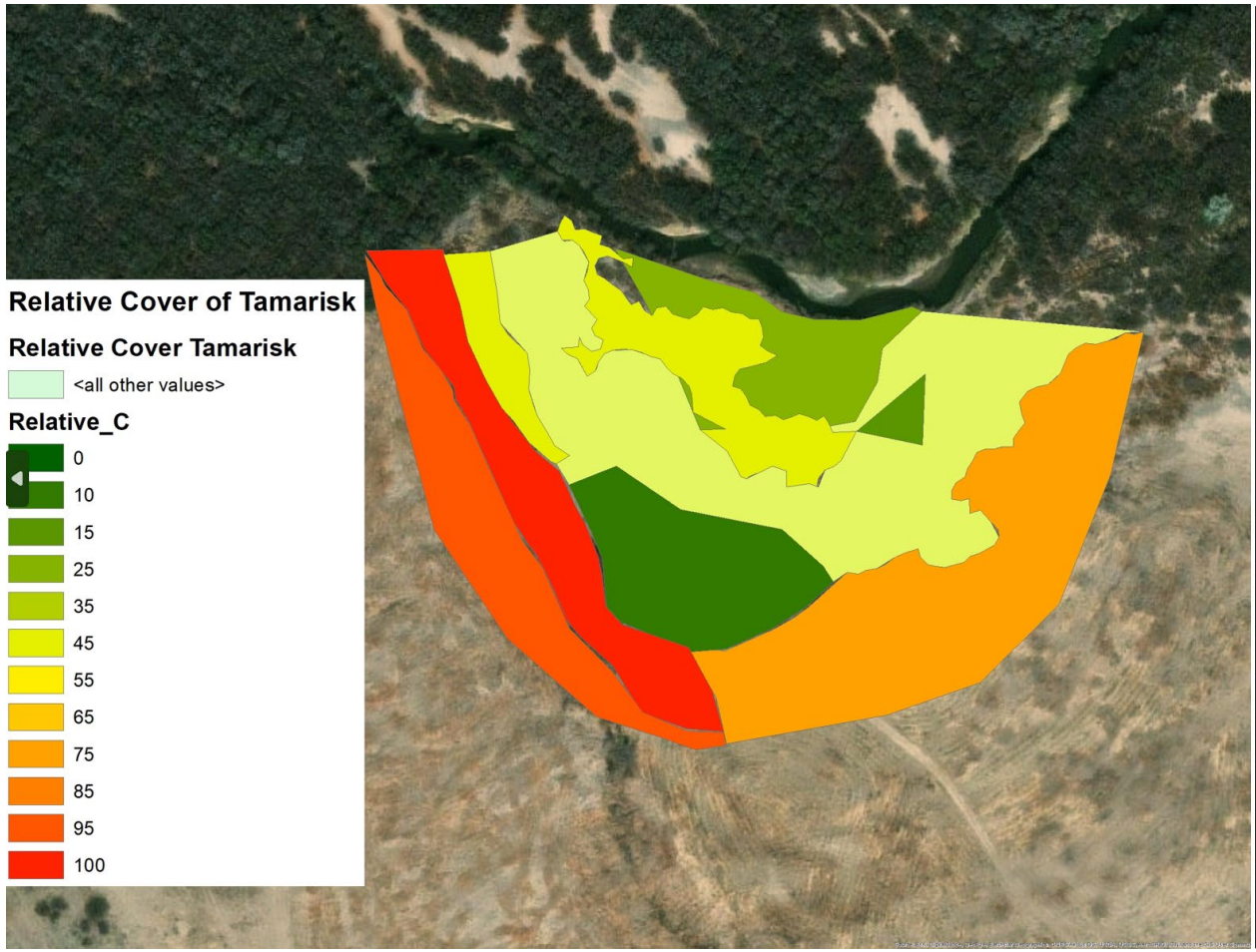
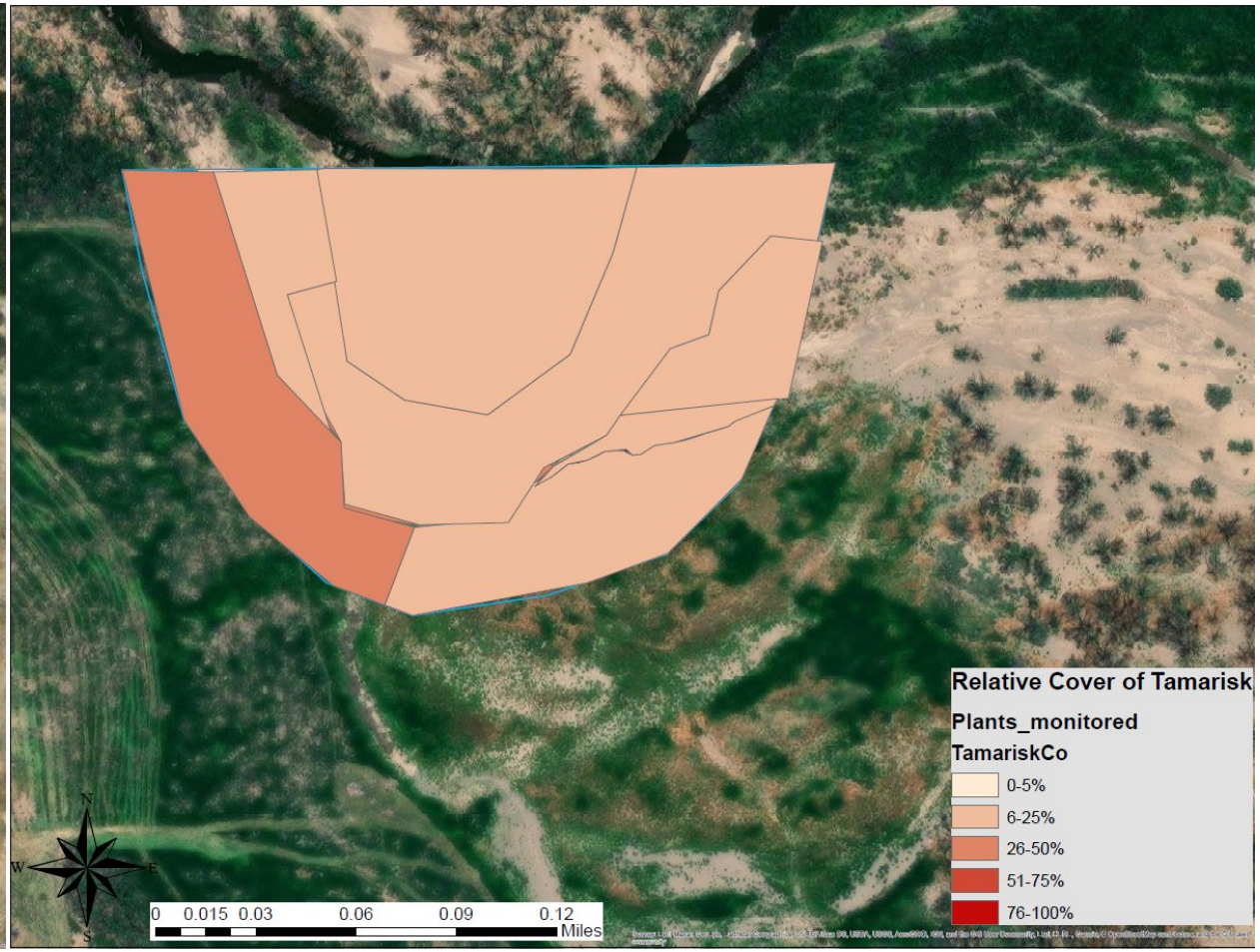


2022 before manual removal



2023 following manual removal



Nature

2

1. Salt Fire 2017
2. Flooding 2022
3. Ongoing drought

The lifecycle doesn't match

The beetle and tamarisk life cycles appear to be offset just enough to be problematic

January 22 – low temperature 15, tamarisk greening on top

February 13 – most trees had first green sprigs

March 11 – first single beetles spotted

March 28 – tamarisk completely green

April 1 – tamarisk started flowering

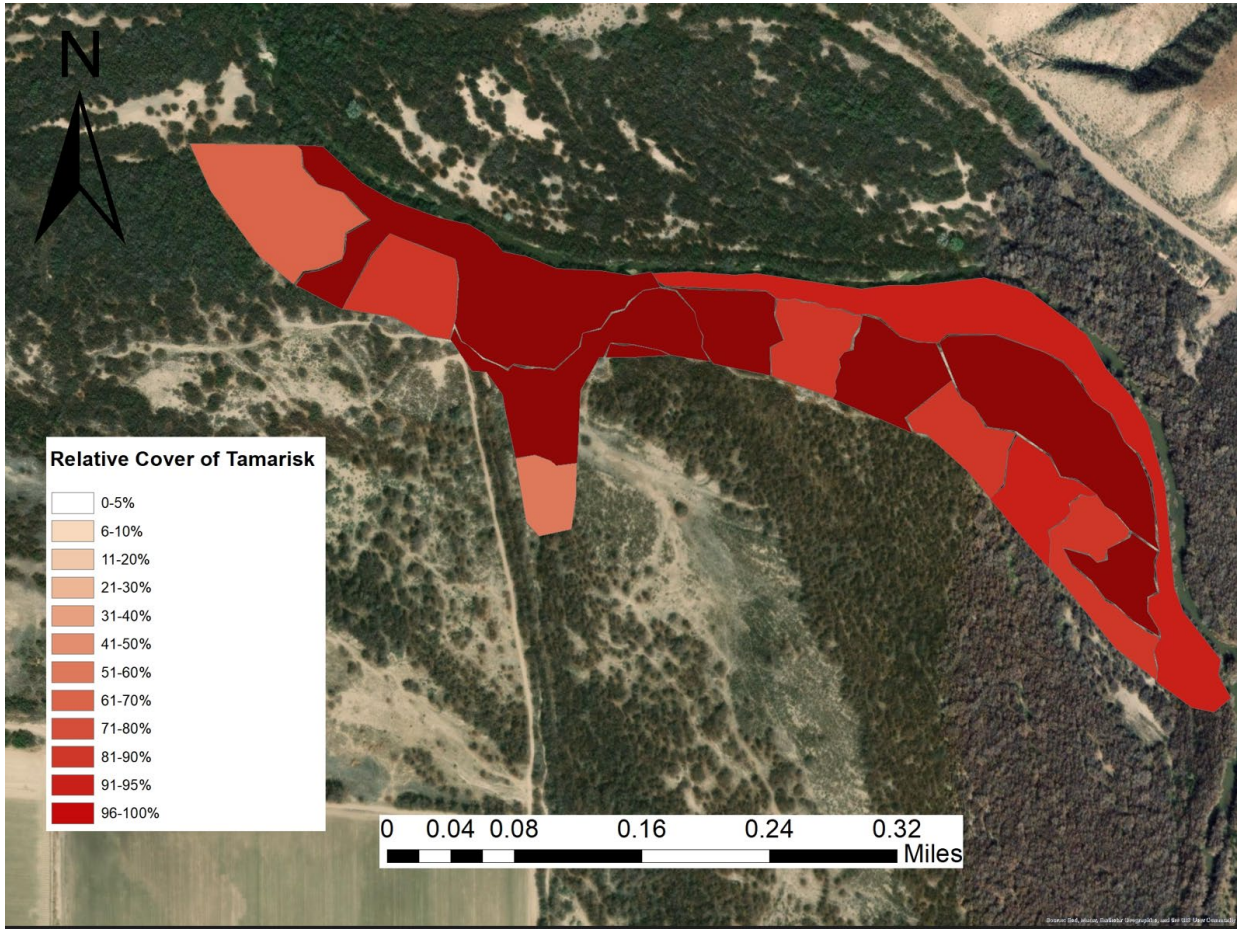
April 11 – first swarms of breeding beetles

Best practices

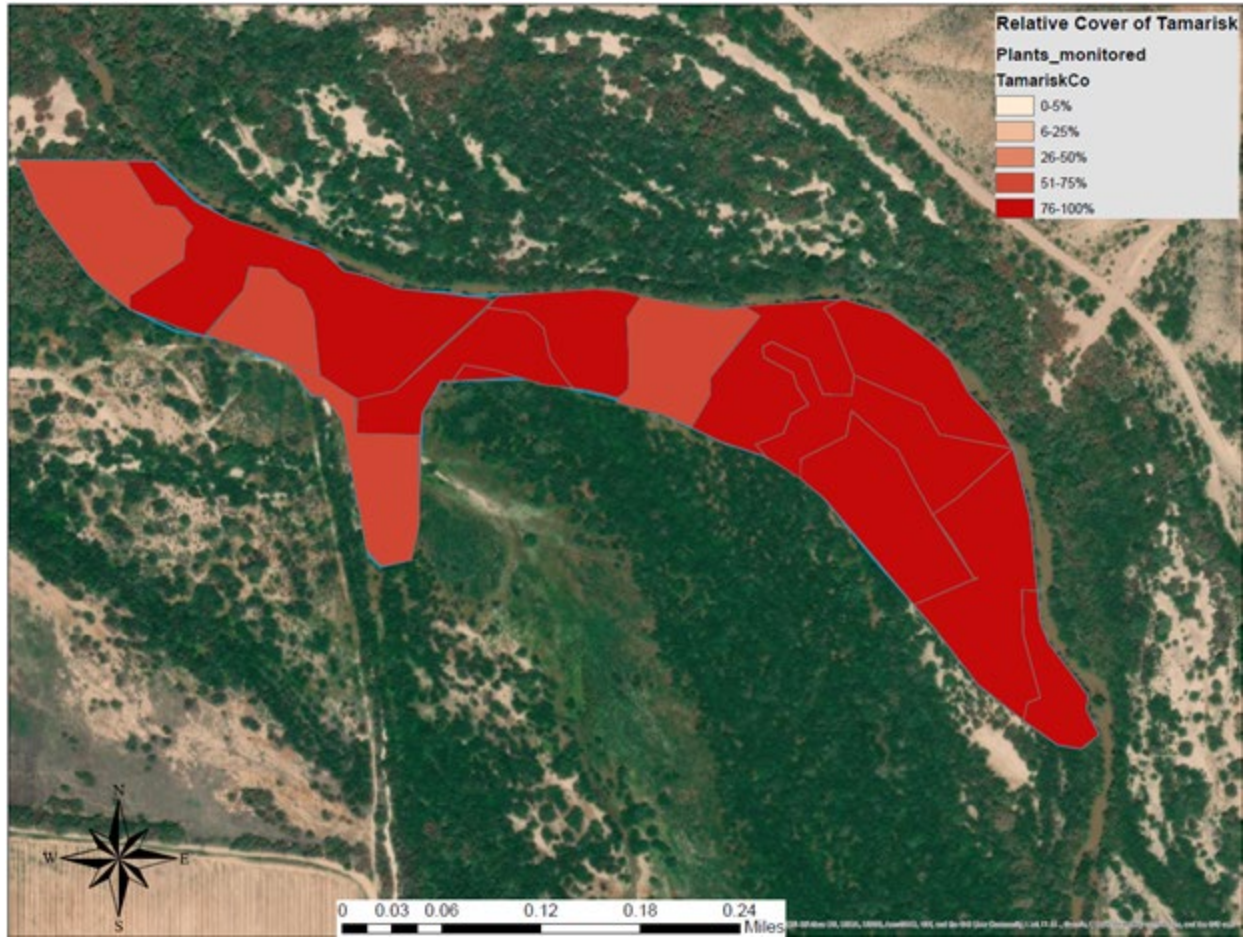
3

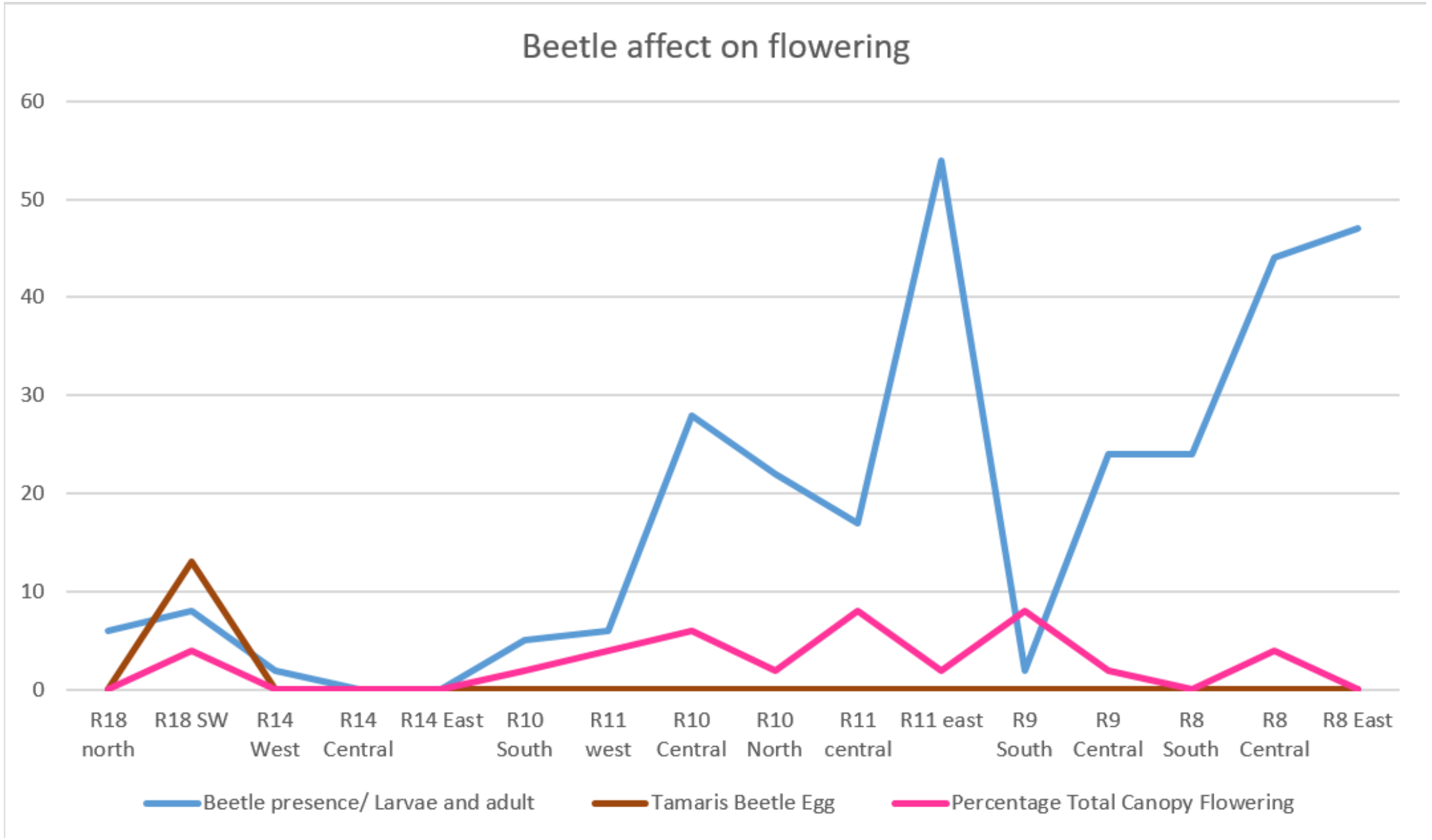
Basins, plant grouping

2022 monitoring results, no removal



2023 monitoring results, no removal, first monitoring of beetle




Beetle affect on flowering
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
R18 north
R18 SW
R14 West
R14 Central
R14 East
R10 South
R11 west
R10 Central
R10 North
R11 central
R11 east
R9 South
R9 Central
R8 South
R8 Central
R8 East
Beetle presence/ Larvae and adult
Tamaris Beetle Egg
Percentage Total Canopy Flowering

Forward

Monitoring is a key to success

Collaboration and communication will move us to the future

The beetle is not going to solve our tamarisk problem!

GILA WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP OF ARIZONA

Any questions?

Dr. Sarah Sayles, Executive Director
Gila Watershed Partnership

Please take a sticker!