

Remote Monitoring of Tamarisk Defoliation by the Saltcedar Leaf Beetle

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Over the past several years, the saltcedar leaf beetle (*Diorhabda carinulata*) has rapidly spread along the Colorado and Green Rivers. Using 250 meter resolution remote sensing data from NASA's MODIS instrument, we are monitoring changes in vegetation indices for these two river systems. Changes in vegetation indices associated with beetle defoliation can be used to detect reduction in canopy cover and estimate changes in evapotranspiration.