

New Option for Mechanical Control of Tamarisk and Russian Olive

Manufactured by the Canadian company Torrent Technical Inc., the EX40 mulcher attachment may provide landowners with a new tamarisk and Russian olive biomass removal option. Attached to an excavator, the mulcher can turn a medium sized tree into mulch in seconds. A tree up to 10" in diameter can be processed in as little as 3 minutes.

Stan Young, a landowner in Mack, Colorado, recently purchased an EX40 mulcher, one of the handful currently available in the United States. He runs the mulcher on a Kubota KX080 excavator. The KX08 is highly maneuverable, allowing the operator to be extremely selective in thinning operations. The boom arm on the excavator can clear a swath up to 50' while enabling work on overhangs and steeper terrain. Running on rubber tracks, the machine exerts little pressure on the soil. Disturbance is kept to a minimum, greatly reducing site impact.

The mulch generated by the EX40 mulching head is finer than mulch produced by other attachments. It is hoped that this size class of mulch will facilitate restoration efforts while keeping invasive weeds at bay. Stan believes that the mulcher will be most effective when used in concert with biological control efforts.

Questions/inquires can be directed to Stan Young at: 970.216.8112. More information on Torrent (and video footage of mulchers in action) can be found at: www.torrenttechnical.com.

