

Salt Cedar, *Tamarix ramosissima*, is a troublesome weed of riparian areas and floodplains in many parts of the western U.S., including several drainages in Wyoming. In 2001, a leaf-feeding beetle from China was introduced to North America for biological control of salt cedar. In collaboration with U.S.D.A. A.P.H.I.S. and Wyoming Weed and Pest, I have been involved in release of the beetle, called *Diorhabda elongata*, at ten sites distributed across Wyoming. These sites are located in Goshen, Fremont (two sites), Hot Springs, Natrona, Johnson, Sheridan, Sweetwater and Washakie Counties. I have also been monitoring the plant communities and spatial spread of the beetles at these sites. Beetle numbers and damage are promising at a number of locations.

*Diorhabda elongata* is originally from the Fukang region of China (Northwest). Both the adults and larvae feed on the foliage of salt cedar, causing the plants to appear greyish-tan to orange. After overwintering in the leaf litter under salt cedar infestations, adult beetles (see below) emerge in the spring from early to mid-June, depending on environmental conditions. Two generations are produced, with the second period of adult activity in July and a third period in September. Adults may be collected with a sweep net during any of the three active periods (early June, mid-July and early September). Larvae are easy to spot. The smallest larvae are jet black, whereas older, larger larvae are green with tan/yellow stripes and are up to about 1/2 inch (1 cm) long.



***Diorhabda elongata* adult**  
**Photo Credit: Cory Gilchriest**