

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
MEETING
Wednesday December 11, 2019
Carpenter Ranch
US 40 East of Hayden**

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions: Welcome (5 minutes)
2. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
3. Update on CWCB Grant (Tamara, Group) 30 minutes
 - a. Report on November 19th Report to CWCB
 1. Tasks 1: Mapping/Modeling
 2. Integrated Management
 3. Education/Outreach/Biocontrol
 - b. Next Steps/Plans for 2020
 1. Mapping
 2. UW plans for management test sites
 3. Biocontrol
4. Maybell Stakeholders Meeting January 7th (Tamara, Kendall, John) 20 minutes
 - a. Letter/Mailing list
 - b. Draft agenda
 - c. UW presentations
 - d. 2019 stakeholders/landowners additional information
 - e. Mapping permissions for 2020
 - f. Costs of meeting
5. Discussion Regarding YRLSP Scheduled January 8th Meeting (Ben) 10 minutes
 - a. Schedule dates for 2020 meetings
6. Updates to Partners and Supporting Organizations (Group) 10 minutes
 - a. Materials and presentations
 - b. Routt County Commissioners December 16th at 4:00pm????
 - c. Moffat County Commissioners January 7th?????
 - d. Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable
7. Donations/Colorado Gives (Tamara) 5 minutes
 - a. Friends of the Yampa project fundraiser page
 - b. FOTY donations account

8. Update on YRLSP Website (Pete) 15 minutes
 - a. Recent changes
 - b. Leafy spurge maps
 - c. Report on past costs of maintaining website (Ben)

10. Other Reports (Group) 15 minutes
 - a. New logo and costs (Tamara)
 - b. Grant funding sources (Ben)
 - c. Draft goals for 2020(Ben)

11. Other: 5 minutes

Next Scheduled Meeting:

YRLSP Regular Meeting: January 8th at the Carpenter Ranch

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

Meeting Packet:

Proposed Agenda
2020 Draft YRLSP Goals

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

**Wednesday, December 11, 2019
Carpenter Ranch, East of Hayden, CO
Meeting Notes**

ATTENDEES:

Working Group Members Present

Tim Corrigan, Routt County Commissioner
Jesse Schroeder, Moffat County Weed and Pest Management
Ben Beall, Routt County Citizen
Tamara Naumann, Moffat County Citizen
John Husband, Moffat County Citizen
Pete Williams, Moffat County Citizen
Emily Spencer, Dinosaur National Monument
Geoff Blakeslee, The Nature Conservancy
Todd Hagenbuch, CSU/RC Extension
Greg Brown, Routt County Weed Program
Tyler Jacox, CO Parks and Wildlife

Guests and Interested Parties:

Lindsey Marlow, The Friends of the Yampa
Jordan Fleming, Tri-State
Tiffany Carlson, Routt County Weed Program
Chloe Mattilio, University of Wyoming
Hannah Kuhns, University of Wyoming

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 10:03. The Group with new attendees introduced themselves.

Ben asked if there were any changes to the agenda. John Husband and Tim Corrigan said that they would have to leave a little early. Ben stated that he would make sure that agenda items where they were involved could be taken out of order. Ben, since this was the last meeting of 2019, thanked everyone for a successful 2019. All of the Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project's 2019 Goals were either accomplished or addressed.

First Discussion: Update on CWCB Grant

Tamara Naumann said that we are on schedule and on budget. The second 6-month Progress Report had been accepted without changes by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and is posted on the YRLSP website.

Tamara said that the first year of the two-year grant budget has been completed except for the Univ WY piece which looks behind. However, due to Univ WY accounting practices their fourth quarter contributions/expenses will be completed in their first quarter 2020 report.

Tamara pointed out in the budget sheet that she shared with the Group that there are adequate balances for the 2020 mapping and biocontrol expenses.

Tamara wanted everyone to know that the considerable volunteer in-kind expenses for time, travel, gas, parks passes etc. are not included in this budget sheet.

She stated that with the remaining balances in the various grant categories, funds could be found to make “contraptions” for beetle harvesting and the payment of our website expenses in 2020.

Tamara also stated that she had asked the Routt County Commissioners for their \$7,500 contribution.

Tim Corrigan asked if this \$7,500 was for 2019 or 2020. Tamara said that this was for 2020.

Tamara explained to the Group that the grant budget was deficient in some of the needs, i.e. public outreach. She has asked Colowyo and Corteva if they could make a donation. (Corteva is a manufacturer of herbicides, interested in the Project research.)

Greg Brown asked if it was possible to send out an email asking for donations. Tamara said that she had sent out an email to some of her Dinosaur NM Weed Warrior friends.

Ben asked if we could delay this discussion until later in the agenda under Item #7.

Tamara explained that there were three tasks in the CWCB Grant. The first one is mapping. During the first year the YRLSP volunteers completed 50 miles of mapping on the Yampa from Hayden to Duffy Mt. The results are posted on our website. Only the parcels where landowners had given permission are posted, which included about 80% of the river banks. Other infestations that were viewed from the river were mapped but the information is to be used only internally.

Pete Williams showed the Group one of the maps that he has created and is posted on the website: BioControl Species Presence detected during the 2019 field season. This map displays the existing “Legacy” beetle release sites where monitoring during 2019

detected leafy spurge beetles, as well as locations where they were observed during the 2019 leafy spurge mapping.

In 2020 the mapping task will continue with mapping from Duffy Mt. to Cross Mt.

Tamara asked Chloe Mattilio, Univ of WY Doctorial Student to update the Group on her part of Task One for the Grant: Mapping/Modeling.

Chloe said that she has been trying to procure data from various agencies and vendors who have access to satellite imagery. She stated that there are some unique challenges with this project: the Yampa corridor is long and narrow.

The YRLSP could use images already collected or contract for a set. The risk of contracting is that the photography could be run on a day with clouds, and the data set would be unusable.

Chloe thinks that there are data sets out there that would be potentially usable to identify leafy spurge infestations.

Chloe stated that once this first step is accomplished she could then work on the second part of her task, which is the modeling of the future path of leafy spurge infestations in Northwest Colorado.

Tamara said that there is \$8,000 in various line items in the budget to purchase the necessary imagery.

Greg asked Chloe if she thought that she would be able to distinguish between leafy spurge and yellow sweet clover. He reminded everyone that when we first started the YRLSP, NRCS tried to identify leafy spurge from photography and was unsuccessful.

Chloe said that she is confident that as we look at it we will be able to identify the leafy spurge—as has been done in other locations. The timing of the imagery is important. Peak bloom would be best.

Greg asked if the fall season would be better when yellow sweet clover would not be in bloom.

Chloe thought that from her experience that peak bloom would be best.

John Husband asked if the gaps in the infestations where we did not get permissions for field mapping would cause a problem.

Chloe said that we already have enough data from the reaches field mapped during 2019.

The Group had a discussion about the legal ability of County Weed Programs to access properties if there is a legal ROW. Tim added that Counties could get a court order for access.

The consensus of the Group was that we need to be respectful of the property owner desires. Pete Williams thought that with 80% of the river banks already accessible for mapping, there is not a need to push landowners who are not comfortable in giving permissions.

Tamara asked Hannah Kuhns, University of WY Grad Student, to update the Group on her part of the Grant: Task Two, Integrated Management

Hannah updated the Group on her integrated management research on the four sites that were chosen for the project. She used a combination of targeted sheep grazing and chemical treatments. The objective was to see if a reduction in seed production could be quantified.

Hannah used 10 different combinations of sheep grazing herbicide treatments (using four different chemical herbicides which are permitted for wetlands environments). This included a new chemical from Corteva, which has not been used for leafy spurge.

She stated that she monitored the sites in the fall and will be back next year to monitor the sites for the effects of the 2019 treatments. Hannah is hopeful that with this information her report will point a way to the best management practices.

John suggested that the YRLSP look at these sites over the long-term. Maybe it would be beneficial to ask for more funding to carry on managing these sites.

Greg asked Hannah if she was aware of other research. Hannah said that the Univ of Wy has been involved with leafy spurge infestations in similar areas in Wyoming.

Tamara updated the Group on the following new developments of the Grant's Task Three: Biocontrol and Education.

Tamara stated that one of the preliminary findings was that, with the confirmation of the biocontrol beetles' long-term survival, and their apparent impact on spurge populations, the YRLSP needs to obtain more leafy spurge beetles to release. She has talked to John Kaltenbach, Colorado Dept of Ag, to schedule a harvesting trip to the Front Range. John suggested the end of June for 4 days, June 30th to July 2nd as the optimum time. Tamara said that she will new volunteers.

Greg asked where the beetles would be harvested. Tamara said that the harvest would be from Chatfield Reservoir and other sites that John has access to.

Tamara also said that John knows a professor in Montana who is interested in leafy spurge biocontrol and might be a source for beetles.

In regards to the Education and Engage Youth component of the Biocontrol task, Tamara related how she had asked Chaos, Inc to price T-shirts with the new YRLSP logo for the kids. She presented a sheet with Chaos, Inc's quote for the costs. The Group agreed with Tamara's intent to acquire t-shirts for the participating youths.

Task 1: Pete and Ben will organize the 2020 leafy spurge mapping from Duffy Mt to Cross Mt.

Task 2: Chloe will pursue the acquisition of remote imagery to complete the identification of leafy spurge and modeling of the future paths of leafy spurge as proposed in the CWCB Grant.

Task 3: Hannah will monitor the four CWCB Grant integrated management CWCB sites in 2020 and recommend leafy spurge treatment plans from her research.

Task 4: Tamara will schedule a beetle harvesting trip to the Front Range for June 30th through July 2nd and get a list of trip volunteers.

Task 5: Tamara will acquire YRLSP t-shirts for the youths who participate in the Engage Youth component of the Biocontrol task.

Second Discussion: Maybell Stakeholders Meeting January 7th

Tamara reported she, Mike Camblin (Maybell Ditch President), John, and Kendall Smith (NRCS) had met to organize the January 7th Maybell Stakeholders meeting. It had been decided that this meeting will be similar to the April 2019 Stakeholder Meeting held at the Pavilion in Craig. The meeting is being planned for 50 participants. The meeting will be at 5:00pm

Tamara said that Mike Camblin would like to have CDOT's participation in the project. Tim and Jesse Schroeder will contact their respective CDOT contacts to see if we could get their cooperation.

The following Group Members volunteered to help with the Maybell meeting: Tamara (will bring dinner/items.) Ben, Pete, Geoff Blakeslee (Will bring large power point screen.), Tyler Jacox, Emily Spencer (will bring plates and eating utensils.), Todd Hagenbuch, Jesse, and Tim (will bring lazer pointer.)

All Maybell Ditch water users, landowners adjacent to the Yampa River in the reach to be mapped in 2020, stakeholders from the April 2019 meeting, and landowners who had given access permissions for the 2019 mapping have been sent invitations (175 letters).

Chris Rhyne, BLM, was able to pay for the printing. Jesse is paying for the food for dinner from MC Weed and Pest education funds. NRCS will pay for the Maybell Elementary School rental (\$100). Other expenses are: postage (\$110) and envelopes (\$11).

Ben suggested that there needs to be a special outreach letter to the Landowners who gave access permissions for the 2019 mapping.

John volunteered to put together this letter and to modify the 2019 Permission Sheet for the 2020 leafy spurge mapping and monitoring/release of 2020 beetles.

John thought it would be easy to modify the 2019 Permission Form.

Ben recommended that in 2020 that we look to get more landowners to understand the importance of giving permissions for release and monitoring of biocontrol sites.

This discussion raised the question on the need to identify sites for the releases of new beetles. Tamara asked John, Tyler and Jesse if they could begin to identify release sites.

Task 6: Tim and Jesse will make contact with CDOT representatives to see if they could work with the YRLSP.

Task 7: Working Group Members Ben, Pete, Geoff, Tyler, Emily, Todd, Jesse and Tim will assist at the Maybell Stakeholders Meeting on January 7th and help Tamara, John, Kendall, and Chris with the meeting.

Task 8: John will create and mail a letter to the landowners who gave access permissions in 2020 and invite them to the Maybell Meeting.

Task 9: John will modify the 2019 Permission Form for the Maybell Meeting.

Third Discussion: YRLSP Meeting Schedule for 2020

Ben opened the discussion by saying that he recommends changing the 2020 YRLSP meeting schedule, due to the fact that there are two meetings already scheduled for January 7th: the meeting with the MC Commissioners and the Maybell Meeting. He recommended to the Group that the first meeting of 2020 will be the second Wednesday of February, February 12th. The remaining meetings in 2020 will follow every other month on the second Wednesday.

The Group agreed to the change.

John thought that this would be a good time to discuss the timing of the Annual Show Me Float. John suggested that the last part of June seemed to be best for viewing the leafy spurge bloom. He suggested June 19th.

The Group agreed with this Friday date, and decided that we could figure out whether we would do a one-day or overnight float in 2020.

Task 10: Ben will contact Matt Ross, TNC, and get on the Carpenter Ranch schedule.

Task 11: John and Ben will organize the 2020 Show Me Float.

Fourth Discussion: Updates to Partners and Supporting Organizations

1. Meeting with the RCBCC on Monday December 16th at 4:00pm to update them on the CWCB Grant.

Tim requested that the RCBCC needs an update on where Routt County's \$15,000 has been and will be used.

Ben suggested that we invite the RC Weed Board to attend since they had supported the YRLSP with over \$20,000 from the Taylor Grazing Act Funds. Tim thought that would not be necessary. Greg said that he would invite the Weed Board Chair.

2. Meeting with the MCBCC on Tuesday January 7th.

Tamara said that she has been in communication with Erin the MCBCC Administrative Assistant to set a time.

Tamara asked the Group especially those residents of Moffat County to try and attend.

Ben volunteered to come over from Routt County.

3. CWCB Grant update to the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable

Tamara stated that she has been in touch with April of the YWGRT and asked her to schedule a time for a presentation of the 6-month Updated on the CWCB Grant to the YWGRT.

Task 12: Tamara and Group members will give an update to the RCBCC on Monday, December 16th.

Task 13: Tamara will be in touch with Erin to schedule a meeting with MCBCC on Tuesday, January 7th. The preferred time would be 9:00am or later to accommodate travel and coordinate with the Maybell meeting at 5:00.

Task 14: Tamara will schedule an update of the YRLSP progress with the CWCB Grant with April of the YWGRT.

Fifth Discussion: Friends of the Yampa (FOTY) Donations Account and Colorado Gives Donations

Tamara reported that she had worked to get a FOTY fundraiser page for donations to the YRLSP for Colorado Gives Day. She had sent out a letter to friends asking for donations referencing the CO Gives link. From Tamara's letter and the presence of the YRLSP fundraiser page on the CO Gives platform, the YRLSP received \$484.62.

Greg and Todd said that we should make sure that we thank everyone. Tamara said that she would send Thank-you Letters.

Pete said that he put a link to the YRLSP Colorado Gives page (www.coloradogives.org/YampaRiverLeafySpurgeProject) on the YRLSP website. The link is available from the Donations page, and will be active year-round for donations. The Donations page now includes an explanation of our fiscal relationship with our Colorado Gives sponsor, FOTY.

Ben reported that with the \$100.95 in the FOTY Donations Account on 9/9/2019 and the \$484.62 from CO Gives, the YRLSP Donations Account with FOTY has a balance of \$585.57.

Task 15: Tamara will send out Thank-You Letters to all who donated through CO Gives.

Sixth Discussion: Update of the YRLSP Website

Pete updated the Group on the changes he has made to the website Research Page. This includes additional paragraphs about the research projects, and a link to the second 6-Month CWCB Grant Update documents. He asked Chloe and Hannah to check the research information concerning their projects, and to get back to him if they have any changes/additions.

Pete asked the Group to give feedback on the appearance of the website on various platforms, especially cell phones and tablets.

Pete has also added the leafy spurge infestation maps, which could be shared with landowners. These maps can also be downloaded and zoomed to specific locations in good detail.

Pete asked Chloe if she might provide examples of her remote photography work for the website. Chloe said that the potential photos/imagery have not been processed.

Greg asked Pete if he had seen any problems with the recent updates to MapItFast. RC Weed Program has had issues with using their Strider Forms.

Pete said that he had noticed some changes to the appearance of the MapItFast Strider web pages, but has not discovered any issues with the YRLSP monitoring forms themselves.

Jordan Fleming asked Pete if he could send the shape files with photos for the ColoWyo/Axial Basin/Tri-State parcels that had been mapped in 2019. Pete said that he would get her a jump drive for TriState/ColoWyo.

Pete advised the Group that in March 2020 there would be a need to pay the \$168 annual fee for the website. Tamara thought that this could be paid out of the CWCB Grant task related to mapping.

Ben said that this was a good point to relate to the Group the outcome of the Rig To Flip Invoice for \$215.70 (from Cody Perry), which Ben had presented to the October 9th meeting in Craig. At that meeting there were concerns raised regarding the charges. Pete had checked the YRLSP MapItFast account and noticed that the next payment was not due until March 2020.

The Group had directed Ben to check with Cody. Cody responded that upon checking his past YRLSP invoices/payments that he had made a mistake. He had already been paid for these charges.

Ben thanked the Group and thought that this was a good lesson. As an organization we need to review and approve all payments for services.

Task 16: The Group will review the changes that Pete made to the website.

Task 17: Pete will get a jump drive with maps and photos with the ColoWyo/Axial Basin/Tri-State parcels to TriState.

Seventh Discussion: Other Reports

1 New Logo: Tamara noted that the new logo by Chaos, Inc is on some of the handouts for the meeting. She has paid Chaos, Inc \$250 out of her own pocket during this long effort to get a simpler logo, which shows leafy spurge in flower.

Tamara presented a new invoice from Chaos, Inc for \$190.00, which includes a discount of \$50.00 for her patience. The Group agreed to pay the invoice out of the

YRLSP FOTY Donations Account. Ben will send this invoice for payment to Greg Henion of FOTY.

2 PO Box Payment: John paid for the renewal of the YRLSP PO Box in Craig. Ben will submit an invoice for \$64.00 for payment to John from the FOTY Donation Account.

3 2010 CWCB Grant: Tamara will find out what the application date is for the YWGRT application to the Colorado Water Conservation Board for a follow-up 2021 CWCB Grant.

4 Other Grant Funding Sources: Ben reported that he had attended a work session put on by the Yampa Valley Community Foundation and the Bud Werner Library. The Library has a program that matches funding projects with funding sources. Ben noted that it seems that there may be foundation matches for the YRLSP, e.g., the Packard Family Foundation and the Xcel Energy Foundation.

5 Taylor Grazing Act Funds: Greg reported to the Group that RC Weed Board is outreaching to the community for proposals to fund 2 grants of between \$1000-\$1500 to improve Native Rangeland Resources.

6 YRLSP 2020 Goals: Ben presented a draft of the YRLSP 2020 Goals. He explained that he feels that it is important that the YRLSP set goals. The YRLSP successfully completed in full or in part all of the fourteen 2019 Goals. Ben asked the Group to review the Draft 2020 Goals so that they can be adopted at the February 12th meeting.

Comments from the Group regarding the Draft 2020 Goals:

1. Goal 4: It will be important to get the advice of Tiffany, Jesse, Tyler, Chris, and Jerod Smith regarding the best locations for the release of beetles.

2. Goal 10: Greg said that it will probably be necessary to pay Don Stinton to lead the initial monitoring of the West Hayden 115 +/- acres. He said that there would be a possibility that the RC Weed Board could help with funds from the Taylor Grazing Act Funds. Tamara thought we need to monitor for at least three years in order to understand the long-term effects of chemical treatments, especially on the native vegetation.

Task 18: Ben will follow-up with Greg Henion to see when the invoices will be paid and get the current balance in the FOTY YRLSP Donation Account.

Task 19: Tamara will find out the timeline for applying for a 2021 CWCB Grant through the YWGRT.

Task 20: Greg and Tiffany will keep the YRLSP up to date as to the requirements/timeline for applying for Taylor Grazing Act funds with the RC Weed Board.

Task 21: The Group will get back to Ben with changes/additions to the draft 2020 YRLSP Goals

Task 22: Ben will present the YRLSP 2020 Goals for approval at the February meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday February 12th at 10:00 am at the Carpenter Ranch