



YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

“... working together to establish an effective program of integrated management for leafy spurge...”

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT 2023 GOALS

1. Collect or purchase 30,000 leafy spurge beetles with assistance from CDA, Moffat County, Routt County, CPW, and other partners.
2. Release at least 30,000 biocontrol insects to bring YRLSP releases up to 100,000 beetles. Prioritize releases on the Yampa River State Wildlife Area west of Hayden, and on properties of willing landowners including J Quarter Circle Ranch, Darrel Camilletti, and two additional landowners identified by Moffat County Weed and Pest. (Tamara, Jesse, Biocontrol Volunteers)
3. Continue to evaluate progress of biocontrol establishment on the Yampa River State Wildlife Area to determine whether the insect population is robust enough to support a local catch-and-release event. (Tamara, CPW)
4. Support Partners: Shane Talvacchio (CPW); Megan Stetson (CSU Extension, Craig); Laurel Deitch (NRCS, Craig); Chris Rhyne (BLM), John Kaltenbach (CDA), Reece Wells (Yammatika) and adult leaders of the Boy's and Girl's Club to continue the Youth, Education, and Biocontrol Event.
5. Continue updating and revising the YRLSP website, <https://www.yampariverleafyspurgeproject.com/>. This will include the creation of a new web page for Integrated Pest Management. This page will include the discussion of best practices for the integration of biocontrol with herbicide use. Links will be provided to relevant resources, and interested land managers will be directed to the county weed programs for advice on specific herbicide treatments. (Jesse, Tiffany, Tamara, Pete)
6. Continue to publicize the YRLSP website and perform outreach to landowners in Routt and Moffat Counties, emphasizing the knowledge gained by the YRLSP since 2016 regarding the management of leafy spurge. (Pete, Tiffany, Jesse, Group)

7. Organize a public biocontrol outreach event on the Yampa River State Wildlife Area west of Hayden, if conditions allow. (Tamara, CPW, Tiffany, Jesse, Laurel, Group)
8. Continue monitoring a selection of prior release sites to document establishment of biocontrol insect populations. Report back results to landowners. (Tamara, Biocontrol Volunteers)
9. Dinosaur National Monument in 2023 to: 1. Conduct two leafy spurge pulling trips in Yampa Canyon in early June and early July; 2. Work with FOTY/Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project on funding proposal for increasing biocontrol releases across the watershed, based on the Idaho model. Ideas for funding include travel to Idaho for project development guidance, bug purchase, monitoring, and DNM seasonals to assist in project deployment/monitoring across the watershed. Funding source identified is Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - Sec. 6 (Invasive species). More guidance from NPS Regional office will be forthcoming by the end of January/early February; 3. Purchase \$1000 in spurge biocontrol insects from CDA Insectary for release in locations TBD. (Emily)
10. Routt County Weed Program to continue to monitor the management of the leafy spurge infestation on Iron Springs Ranch and adjacent lands near Stagecoach Reservoir. (Tiffany)
11. Continue to work with supporting partners in their implementation of integrated leafy spurge management strategies. (Jesse, Chris, Tiffany)
12. Organize a 2023 Show Me Float in June from Dorsey Boat Ramp to Loudy Simpson Park. (John, Ben)
13. Provide leafy spurge information to the YWG BRT Public Education, Participation and Outreach (PEPO) committee, for inclusion in their outreach publications. (Tamara, Patrick)
14. Reports to supporting organizations: FOTY Board (Tamara), FOTY Yampa River Fest (Ben), MC and RC BCC (John, Ben), Colorado First Conservation District (Ben, John, Laurel), RC Conservation District (Tiffany, Ben), IWMP (Lindsey) and the Yampa River System Legacy Partnership (John).
15. Continue the YRLSP Succession Planning with the goal of becoming a program under FOTY to set a course for the future management of leafy spurge in the Yampa Valley. (Group)
17. Submit a grant application for Inundative Biocontrol Strategy for leafy spurge for the years 2024, 2025, and 2026. This grant will be through the Ecological Systems Restoration part of the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. (Emily, Tamara, Lindsey)