

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
WORK SESSION, THURSDAY MARCH 30, 2017 at 1:00 to 5:00pm
Carpenter Ranch, US 40, East of Hayden, Colorado

PROPOSED DISCUSSION OUTLINE

Leader: Lara Duran, CDA List "A" Noxious Weed Specialist

Participants: Members and Interested Parties of the Yampa River leafy Spurge Project

Below are the **Initial Steps** that Lara Duran, CDA List "A" Noxious Weed Specialist proposes that the Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project (YRLSP) explore at the YRLSP work session on March 30th.

The **Objective** of this work session is to get the YRLSP moving forward on creating interagency noxious weed and restoration management planning efforts to address the leafy spurge infestations: One, along the Yampa River and adjacent lands and Two, the lands of Routt and Moffat Counties.

REVIEW GEOGRAPHIC ENVIRONMENT

1. Project known **GIS data** on screen or monitor and have **four identical hardcopy maps** showing at least one mile past the entire length of the known infestation;
 - a. Have all known infestations marked and identified with a unique identification #
 - b. Other reference GIS data to identify management actions:
 - i. Jurisdiction and infrastructure: land ownership, roads and trails, fences, boat ramps, etc.
 - ii. Physical environment: hydrology including wetlands, elevation, dominant vegetation, 100-year floodplain, 500-year floodplain
 - iii. Values in need of protection: federally threatened, endangered, proposed and sensitive species, CPW species of concern, etc.
 - c. make sure all data is in the same DATUM (NAD83 zone 12 north)

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- a. Identify gaps in data
- b. Identify process for filling data and information gaps
- c. Participant discussion concerning the importance of this data/information in formulating a **Leafy Spurge Treatment Plan**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE TREATMENT OF THE LEAFY SPURGE INFESTATIONS

2. List all of the **opportunities** for the project on one map
 - a. Opportunities can describe events, people, actions, desired outcomes, timeframes and geographic locations
 - b. The best opportunities include all of the above
 - c. Opportunities can be directly or indirectly associated with the project
 - d. Opportunities are forward looking- short and long-term

- i. e.g. there is an opportunity to use Rocky Mountain Youth Corp to build small temporary containment fences in the early spring of the first year where goats will be used to intensively manage leafy spurge between river mile x and y
- ii. e.g. while treating leafy spurge at river mile x, we can repair livestock fence y

Desired Outcomes:

- a. List of **Resources** available to address these **Opportunities**.
- b. Participant discussion on how these **Resources** could be included in a **Leafy Spurge Treatment Plan**

CHALLENGES

- 3. List all of the **specific issues** associated with each specific geographic site on a second map and describe what is the **bottom line** for that issue
 - a. Issues describe details succinctly
 - b. Issues are not insurmountable
 - c. Issues present challenges or items that have to be addressed; they are not project stoppers
 - d. A bottom line describes an “absolutely under no circumstances” can this happen (e.g. due to legal issues)
 - i. e.g. a 10 acre patch of leafy spurge is under a contiguous mature cottonwood stand that supports one bald eagle nest right in the middle that has been active for the past five years; retention of 2 acres of cottonwood at river mile x is immediately surrounding the nest required to sustain this breeding site

Desired Outcomes:

- a. List of **Challenges** both general and specific that will need to be overcome to address the leafy spurge infestations.
- b. Participant discussion on what information/data/resources that are needed to address these **Challenges**.
- c. Participant discussion on the availability of this information/data/resources in order to create a **Leafy Spurge Treatment Plan**

REALITY CHECK

- 4. List all of the **constraints** on a third map
 - a. Constraints are the sideboards or the limitations that are placed for valid reasons
 - b. Constraints should be scrutinized heavily so that a “nice to do” doesn’t become a “must do”; usually there is flexibility and interpretation in most all sideboards
 - i. e.g. there is a timing restriction for bald eagle nest located at river mile t between March 1 and August 31st because this is in the BLM Land Management Plan

Desired Outcomes:

- a. List of known and possible **Constraints** to the management of the leafy spurge infestations
- b. Participant discussion on the impacts of these **Constraints on a Leafy Spurge Treatment Plan.**

GENERAL OUTCOMES FROM WORK SESSION

1. What missing information/data/participants are needed to move forward with a **Leafy Spurge Treatment Plan?**
2. What future meetings/work sessions are needed to complete this analysis in order to create a **Leafy Spurge treatment Plan?**
3. What is the need to discuss at future meetings/work sessions a change in the organizational structure of the YRLSP in order to manage the **Leafy Spurge Infestations?**

Conclusion

Lara Duran through the eyes of CDA will outline her thoughts as to what should be the **Next Steps** in this process in building the necessary capacity within the YRLSP and the organizational needs of the YRLSP to fulfill its goal of creating a **Leafy Spurge Management Plan** for the **Leafy Spurge Infestations** along the Yampa Rive and adjacent lands and in the of Routt and Moffat Counties.

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

TASKS

March 27, 2017

1. Finalize Statement of Work for the 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant and Budget: Ben, Greg, Jessica, and John

2. Organize Annual Float Trip for July 7th: John and Ben

a. Please let us know if you can make the float.

b. John and I will bring our rafts. Tim, can you bring your raft? Is there anyone else with a raft? Jacob is there a chance that State Parks would like to participate in the float with raft and your corridor expertise?

c. We would like to get some new folks on the float. Chris can we invite Bruce? Tim/Ray can we introduce a couple of the other Commissioners to the leafy spurge infestations? Kris, can you make it?

3. Little Yampa Canyon Friends of the Yampa/BLM river recreation survey. Maybe the YRLSP can piggy-back and do a Leafy Spurge Survey Check with GPS etc: Chris and John

Note: Ben Beall (son) who is on the FOY Board is the organizer for FOY. I might get invited? Bennie is going to talk to Gina (BLM) and John (Parrotheads). He would like to do an initial land trip sometime in April with the trip in May.

4. Landowner Contacts/Access Permits: Barry

5. Schedule Spring Leafy Spurge Treatments using the \$20,000 from the 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant: Greg and Jessica

6. Final Report for CDA Weed Fund 2016 Grant due June 15th: Ben, Greg, Jessica, and Barry

7. Document completion of the Measurable Objectives in the 2016 Grant due June 15th i.e. completion of 10-year Leafy Spurge Management Plan: Greg, Jessica, Chris, Ben, John, and Kris

a. Use report/information from the Strategic Plan Discussion of March 30th to help with the completion of the Measurable Objectives i.e. "Red Blob" mapping and 10-year Leafy Spurge Management Plan.

8. Create an Agenda with Reports from committees for above Tasks for the Thursday May 11th YRLSP meeting: Ben