



## **YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT**

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

### **YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT Wednesday 10:00am, August 10, 2022 Carpenter Ranch and by Zoom**

#### **Proposed Agenda**

1. Welcome: Ben (5 minutes)
2. Introductions: (5 minutes)
3. Review Agenda: (5 minutes)
4. Reports on Summer Events: (30 minutes)
  - a. Show Me Float (John)
  - b. Lowry Collection and Release of Beetles (Tamara, Chris, Jesse)
  - c. Release of Purchased Beetles (Tamara, Tyler, John)
  - d. Mapping from West Cross to Deerlodge (Pete)
  - e. Youth and Education Event (Tamara, Laurel, Tyler, Megan, Chris, Libbie Miller (CPW) )
  - f. Partner Events
5. Discussion of Results of Summer Events and Future Plans (Group) (20 minutes)
  - a. Big Picture
    1. Release of 30,700 beetles: 2022 goal 10,000 beetles
  - b. Biocontrol Field Trip
  - c. Future Release Sites
  - d. Outreach
    1. Collection and Release Article for The Today and Craig Daily (Terry)
    2. Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable (Tamara, Patrick)
    3. CO Weed Managers Annual Meeting Presentation (Jesse, Tiffany)

6. Leafy Spurge Management with Herbicides Recommendation for Website (Tamara, Jesse, Tiffany, Laurel) (10 minutes)
7. Website Update (Pete) (10 Minutes)
8. Partner Plans and Updates: Group (15 minutes)
  - a. Friends of the Yampa and Donations Account
  - b. Routt County Weed Program
  - c. Moffat County Weed and Pest Management
  - d. Colorado Parks and Wildlife
  - e. Yampa River State Park
  - f. BLM
  - g. CO State Land Board
  - h. NRCS: Steamboat
  - i. NRCS: Craig
  - j. Dinosaur National Monument
  - k. MC CSU Extension
  - l. RC CSU Extension
9. Succession Planning 6<sup>th</sup> Edition: Possible Scenarios (John, Ben) (15 minutes)
  - a. Continue with Volunteer Structure
  - b. County Leadership for Yampa River Basin: MC Weed and Pest and RC Weed Program with direction from Boards of County Commissioners
    1. Alternate scenario: County Programs assume leadership in individual counties
    2. Use volunteer pool for events
  - c. Leadership by a joint organization formed by the County Weed Boards
  - d. Formation of Agency Committee for Yampa River Basin including
    1. County Weed Programs
    2. CO Parks and Wildlife
    3. BLM
    4. NRCS
    5. CSU Extensions
  - e. Need to include landowners in Succession Organization
10. Other (5 minutes)

**Proposed Next Scheduled YRLSP Regular Meeting:** Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at the Carpenter Ranch or By Zoom

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

## **YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT**

**Wednesday, August 10, 2022**

**Carpenter Ranch, Hayden Colorado**

**And by Zoom**

**Final Meeting Notes**

### **ATTENDEES:**

#### **Working Group Members Present**

Tim Corrigan, Routt County Commissioner  
Ben Beall, Routt County Citizen  
John Husband, Moffat County Citizen  
Tamara Naumann, Moffat County Citizen  
Pete Williams, Moffat County Citizen  
Tiffany Carlson, RC Weed Program  
Jenny Frithsen, Friends of the Yampa  
Reece Wells, Yampatika  
John Kaltenbach, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 10:10am

Ben reviewed the proposed Agenda with the Group and Ben said that he would like to add two additional alternatives under Item 9: Succession Planning: 1. Friends of the Yampa; and 2. Conservation Districts as suggested by Tim Corrigan.

#### **First Discussion: Show Me Float Report**

John Husband reported that the 2022 Show Me Float went from Dorsey Beach to Loudy Simpson where the YRLSP supplied lunch. The trip had about a dozen participants. The Float made a couple stops to discuss leafy spurge infestations, one at Camilletti's. The Float only were able to find Oberea beetles not the Aphthona. Amber Delay, a reporter from the Craig Daily Press was a participant. She wrote a good article for the Daily Press regarding the float and leafy spurge. Some of the participants were Tim Corrigan, Routt County Commissioner, Dakotah McGinlay, Steamboat Springs City Council, Jennifer Holloway, Executive Director, Craig Chamber and Ryan Messinger, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council.

Ben added that the float stopped at a dense infestation on Earle's where the YRLSP had three release sites where no Aphthona beetles were found. However, he thought that one could see the effect of the beetles on a now less dense infestation.

Tamara Naumann said that the reason that no Aphthona were found was that the beetles in the Yampa Valley were a couple weeks behind their normal emergence due to the cold and rain.

## **Second Discussion: Biocontrol Reports**

**1. Collection and 1st Releases:** Tamara thanked John Kaltenbach, Colorado Dept of Agriculture (CDA) and his staff for assisting in the collection and sorting of 14,000 Aphthona and 200 Oberea beetles at the Lowry State Land Board Property. The YRLSP brought 12,000 Aphthona and 200 Oberea back to the Yampa Valley.

These beetles were released on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>:

2,000 Aphthona by Chris Rhyne and Jesse Schroeder on Tepee Draw

10,000 Aphthona and 200 Oberea by Tamara, Ben and Pete Williams distributed between five sites in Little Yampa Canyon (LYC)

Tamara explained that LYC has not seen any prior releases and was scheduled for releases in 2021. However, with low water and only a few beetles collected on Lowry in 2021, the releases had to be delayed until 2022.

**2. Releases on SWA:** Tamara said she needed to give a shout out to Tyler Jacox, CPW. He has been a huge partner of YRLSP. For a number of years, he has been purchasing and releasing beetles on the Yampa River State Wildlife Area (YRSWA) west of Hayden. This year he released with Tamara 10,300 on the SWA: 6,000 Aphthona and 300 Oberea purchased by CPW and 4,000 from CDA Palisade Insectary donated by Deirdre Macnab.

Tamara explained that they released the beetles on three sites in one location within a central portion of the YRSWA where Tyler had released beetles the past two years. This was done due to time and logistics. This can be considered an experiment to saturate one site.

Tamara explained that research has suggested that it is best to release 1,000 beetles per site. However, riparian areas where most of the YRLSP releases take place are not the preferred habitat of Aphthona beetles. This large release was done for these reasons:

- a. To further knowledge regarding leafy spurge beetles in riparian areas
- b. To increase the number of beetles in a riparian area
- c. To ensure that the YRLSP will have an area on public lands where a Biocontrol Education Event can be held. Tamara noted for the Group that private landowners are reluctant to have the public on their property.

Tamara hopes that with this saturation of beetles on the YRSWA, the area will have the potential to become a local beetle nursery. The intention is that within 5 or 6 years potentially there will be a large enough population for collection and redistribution of the beetles.

Tim Corrigan asked if there is a concern that the beetles will eat themselves out of house and home.

Tamara explained that that is not what biocontrol is about. Leafy spurge beetles are intended to control leafy spurge, and cannot be expected to completely eliminate the plants they live on.

Tamara reported to the Group that she and Tyler went back to the release site a couple days ago. They found lots of beetles and impacts of the beetles on the leafy spurge plants. Tyler can see the damage that the beetles are causing. Tamara thought that this damage was from last year's beetles. She explained that this experiment will be a success if next year we are able to see these changes in the leafy spurge plants:

- a. The stunting of the leafy spurge plants
- b. Fewer flowers
- c. Tiny leaves on the leafy spurge plants
- d. Limited instances of tall dense clumps of plants spread out in the area

Also, on two other monitored sites on the SWA Tamara and Tyler found a strong presence of beetles.

**3. Additional Releases:** Tamara and John released 6,000 Aphthona and 400 Oberea purchased by the YRLSP from Montana on the following private or publicly leased lands:

- 2,400 Aphthona and 100 Oberea on Haskins (SLB) west of Maybell
- 1,200 Aphthona and 100 Oberea on Steele, Maybell
- 1,200 Aphthona on Moretz south of Craig
- 1,200 Aphthona on Mack south of Craig

Tim asked where the funds came from for this purchase.

Tamara explained that the funds came from Routt and Moffat counties. Moffat County Board of County Commissioners donated \$1,500 to the YRLSP, and Tiffany Carlson, Routt County Weed Program Manager explained that she contributed \$1,000 from unused funds in her budget.

Tamara further explained that even though she says that the beetles from CDA are free, there is a cost not only the time of CDA staff but also for YRLSP volunteer travel, time and board on the Front Range. She said that she has just submitted a \$200 invoice for the two-night motel costs to the Friends of the Yampa/YRLSP donations account.

Tim asked if the YRLSP sees the beetles in a static state and are they self-sustaining?

Tamara stated that riparian areas, the focus of the YRLSP, are not the principal habitat for the Aphthona beetles. Therefore, it will take some time to see if the YRLSP's biocontrol program can be considered successful.

Pete Williams added that the research of historical biocontrol releases suggested that there had been at least 30,000 beetles released over a 20 to 30-year period prior to the start of the YRLSP's release program in 2019. YRLSP monitoring of these legacy sites has shown that these beetles have persisted and spread in Northwest Colorado and now can be found in many places along the Yampa River.

Tamara stated that, with the addition of 70,570 beetles over the last four years and the goal of releasing 100,000 in the project area from west of Hayden to west of Maybell, it can be expected that the beetle populations will be sustainable and likely will increase.

John told the Group that after all these releases he touched base with the private landowners and informed them of what had been done, and that the YRLSP would follow up with monitoring on the release sites. John cautioned that the landowners want to see the vegetation changes due to the beetles. They would like to see that it is working.

Tamara said that one of the challenges for the YRLSP is to be able to describe to landowners what they will be able to observe, i.e., shorter leafy spurge plants, less seed production, and plants struggling to survive.

John wondered whether, if the riparian areas are not the preferred habitat for the beetles, there could be a nursery on an upland site.

Tamara pointed out that the only upland site where we have previously released beetles (McIntyre, in 2020) was not a good site and did not have a dense infestation of leafy spurge. She went back to the site last week and couldn't find any bugs.

Jenny Frithsen asked, if it is too soon for landowners to see positive impacts, how will they buy in to biocontrol.

Tamara agreed that they are skeptical but explained that ranchers and ag producers know leafy spurge. They understand the impact of leafy spurge on their livestock and hay production and treat their production areas with chemicals. However, the riparian areas between their productive areas and the river are not being managed due to the costs of spraying (and restrictions on chemical herbicides in these areas). They can appreciate that the leafy spurge in these areas will not only impact their lands but spread downstream.

Ben thought that it was important for the Group to have confidence in the science of biocontrol, but also to follow through with the YRLSP's effort to include information on the website describing which chemicals work and have a place in the management of leafy spurge.

Tamara confirmed that the YRLSP needs to follow through on releases in the coming years. She said that Jesse Schroeder has had contact with a couple landowners who are willing to release beetles. Tyler wants to put more beetles out on the YRSWA and the YRLSP has two willing landowners where we were not able to release beetles this year: J Quarter Circle Ranch and Darrel Camillitti. We need to look at our maps and plan for next year's biocontrol program.

**Task 1: The YRLSP will organize a public Biocontrol Event in 2023 on the YRSWA west of Hayden.**

**Task 2: The YRLSP will release 30,000 +/- leafy spurge beetles in Northwest Colorado during the next two plus years.**

**Task 3: The YRLSP will monitor the release sites on private lands and report back to the landowners and describe changes to the leafy spurge infestations.**

**Task 4: The YRLSP and Partners need to plan for 2023 biocontrol releases. The following are potential release sites: Two landowners to be identified by MC Weed and Pest, Darrel Camillitti, J Quarter Circle Ranch, and more on the YRSWA.**

### **Third Discussion: Mapping from West Cross to Deerlodge**

Pete explained to the Group that the YRLSP original mapping plan was to map leafy spurge infestations in the Yampa Basin from west of Hayden to Dinosaur National Monument. By 2021 we had completed everything except the final reach from West Cross to Deerlodge Park. Pete and Ben took one raft down this reach on June 30<sup>th</sup> and completed the mapping.

In this reach there were no landowner permissions, so mapping was conducted just from the raft. Pete explained that it has been the YRLSP protocol not to include mapped leafy spurge infestations on the YRLSP published maps when it occurs on private property with no permissions. Pete asked the Group if they thought it worth it to even publish the maps of this reach, when none of the mapped spurge will appear on them. John answered Yes, because the non-permission properties will be delineated, and it will be clear where spurge populations are not being shown.

Tamara wanted everyone to understand that the YRLSP has had an astonishing level of success in obtaining landowner permissions. This was probably due to the respect gained with the policy of not antagonizing them when permission is not granted.

Tim asked why we didn't have landowner permissions in this reach. John explained that the largest landowner in the reach, representing probably 99% of the property, just would not communicate with his ranch manager concerning the YRLSP's request for mapping access. Further, with all the recent water shortages and potential water rights administrative actions, possibly they just didn't want the public on their property.

Ben pointed out that there are two dimensions to the issue of publishing the map data. The public maps show non-permission properties blocked out, but for research purposes this data can still be provided when appropriate. If in the future permissions are granted it can also be published on the public maps.

**Task 5: Pete to complete the YRLSP mapping project by putting the leafy spurge infestation maps of the West Cross to Deerlodge reach on the website.**

### **Fourth Discussion: Youth and Education Event**

Tamara wanted to give another shout-out to Tyler. He spent a day mowing the grass at the site so that the kids would be comfortable. He had CPW pay \$500 for two porta-potties, which Tamara said were too expensive. Tyler also picked out a viable alternative site because the preferred site was flooded by the high water.

Tamara thanked John K. for coming up from Denver with 2,000 beetles for the event. These beetles were released with the kids, (1000 on each day of the event) on the YRLSP. Participants were kids from Yampatika on the first day, from the Boys and Girls Club of Craig, on the second.

Yampatika and the Boys and Girls Club brought the kid's lunches and the YRLSP paid \$159.83 for the adult's lunches, using leftover funds from the 2021 CWCB grant.

Reece Wells said that he and Yampatika were super happy with the event and that the kids enjoyed it. Yampatika would like to be a part of another event if one is held in the future.

Tamara thought that Laurel Deitch (NRCS Craig), Megan Stetson (CSU Extension Craig), and Chris Rhyne (BLM) would like to carry on in the future with the Youth and Education Event. She informed the Group that she and Tyler thought the best use of their time next year would be to organize an adult Leafy Spurge Field Trip

**Task 6: The YRLSP's partners Laurel Deitch (NRCS Craig), Megan Stetson (CSU Extension Craig), Chris Rhyne (BLM), and Reece Wells (Yampatika) will coordinate to see if a Youth Event is possible for 2023.**

#### **Fifth Discussion: Outreach Efforts**

**1. Newspaper Articles:** Ben brought up the effort by Terry Audersirk to get an article published in the Steamboat Today and the Craig Daily Press regarding this summer's biocontrol efforts. He said that Terry is having a difficult time contacting the editor of the papers.

John said that after a period of time he will contact the editor, Eli Pace, and try and talk to Amber Delay, the reporter who wrote the article on the Show Me Float.

Jenny suggested that the YRLSP should contact the CO Sun. John K. thought that a good idea. The CO Sun has done a couple articles: one on tamarisk and another on the Palisade Insectary.

**2. Meeting with the RCBC:** Tim suggested that the YRLSP schedule another meeting with the RCBC. He thought that the Dylan Anderson, the reporter of the Today, would do a good article on the meeting. Tamara said that we should wait until after the first of the year when we will have all the data but together from the YRLSP 2022 efforts. Tim thought that makes sense due to the election of a new commissioner in November.

**3. Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable:** Tamara said that she and Patrick Stanko have been planning on getting a presentation together for the YWGBRT. Tim asked, didn't the YRLSP get funding from the YWGBRT. Tamara clarified that the YRLSP received funds from CWCB through the YWGBRT.

**4. CO Weed Managers Annual Meeting:** Ben said that both Tiffany and John K. had said that they had talked to the organizers of the meeting. Tamara related that she was invited last week to

give the Keynote presentation in December. She was told that the organizer had looked at our webpage and realized that the YRLSP's focus had similarities with the theme of this year's meeting. She said that she would make sure that Jesse and Tiffany, as important partners, will be included in the presentation. Tamara said that she had been assured by John K. that her presentation will go over well.

**Task 7: John will assist Terry Audesirk in trying to get an article published in the Steamboat Today and the Craig Daily Press.**

**Task 8: Ben will coordinate with Tim to schedule a presentation with the RCBCC in January.**

**Task 9: Tamara will continue to work with Patrick Stanko for a presentation to the YWGBRT.**

**Task 10: Tamara, Jesse, and Tiffany will make a presentation on the YRLSP to the CO Weed Managers Annual Meeting in December.**

### **Sixth Discussion: Succession Planning**

Ben announced that this is the 6<sup>th</sup> time over an almost two-year period that the item has been discussed. However, this time is the first that we are to discuss future alternatives or options for the YRLSP.

**1. Volunteer Structure:** John thought the first alternative mentioned, to continue the volunteer structure, was good. He doesn't see the YRLSP continuing unless there are volunteers.

**2. County Leadership:** John said that it is important to think about what we are asking. He doesn't see the counties doing what we are doing. Tim agreed.

Ben thought that the important task was for administration.

Tim emphasized the need to understand the level of the existing effort. It would be important to calculate the total number of man-hours of the effort. He sees an issue for Routt County that a majority of the infestations are in Moffat County. However, personally he agrees with the need for county support. Routt County has an interest in the whole system.

Tim thought that Routt County could cooperate by funding a consultant to do a strategic plan. Ben thought that this is not necessary.

**3. Leadership by the County Conservation Districts:** Tim admitted that he had suggested this alternative. He said that the RC Conservation District is RC centric and probably would not be a good fit.

**4. Leadership through MC Weed and Pest and the RC Weed Program:** Tiffany told the Group that she has 100 weeds to deal with and would not have the time. Tim said that RC is not going to hire an FTE to coordinate the YRLSP.

John asked who will monitor the beetle release sites. He doesn't see the monitoring as a county function. However, there is a need for an umbrella organization.

**5. An Organization led by County, State and Federal Agencies:** Ben thought that this could be an organization similar to the Yampa River System Legacy Partnership. The Group agreed that this would not be feasible.

**6. Landowners:** Ben stated that he put landowners on the list because they are a necessary partner. They have to be involved.

**7. Friends of the Yampa:** Tim suggested that this issue needs a non-profit, an existing organization to be the lead along with volunteers.

Jenny related that the FOTY is starting to look at a strategic plan and relative to a couple years ago are increasing staff: Executive Director, Jenny's position (a part-time position), and they are hiring another office coordinator. She wondered where the missions of the two groups might overlap.

Tim related how the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council has recently reorganized around programs. Tim suggested that FOTY have a conversation with YVSC about their strategic planning process.

Tamara said that she could see obvious overlap. The YRLSP is already a program of FOTY. FOTY manages the YRLSP Donations Account and was the fiscal agent for the 2020-2021 CWCB Grant. However, as a sitting Board Member of FOTY she could say that at the moment FOTY is overextended.

Tim restated the need for knowing how many volunteer hours in the YRLSP effort. Tamara used the CWCB Grant as an example of all the volunteer hours. She said that she donated all her hours managing the grant so that FOTY could be the fiscal agent of the grant and earn a 10% fee.

Pete related that he had kept track of his hours but in the end, he knows that he went way beyond hours noted in managing the website side of the grant.

Tamara thought that it would take a week to create a spreadsheet listing all the volunteer hours. Ben suggested that it might be better to create a spreadsheet of the hours for 2022, which would be more typical.

Tamara thought it might be realistic for the counties to donate to FOTY to provide the leadership and organization for the YRLSP. She thought that this structure might open up revenue streams: CDA grants, Yampa River Fund etc.

Tim can see opportunities for FOTY. The counties could fund a planning process to hire a consultant. This funding would not be for the long-term.

Tamara thought that, especially with FOTY's Score Card Project: Maintaining a Healthy River, the YRLSP could fit under the umbrella of FOTY, and that this will be clearer in another year when there is more data from the biocontrol effort.

**Task 11: Ben to review the Succession Discussion and include a 7<sup>th</sup> Edition in the agenda for the next YRLSP meeting.**

### **Seventh Discussion: Herbicide Recommendations web page for YRLSP website**

Tamara related that she had checked with Jesse to see what information he would like to use for the web page. Jesse said that some of his sites look good. They are all different and the landowners are different. However, he didn't want to take a tour at this time. She would like to write up some of the sites as an example of management on upland sites.

Tiffany said that she does not have as many sites as Jesse. Her main focus is on the Stetson Ranch, which has new ownership, and the new owner would like to get away from aerial spraying (due to the cost). On a tour with the landowners they could see some success.

Tiffany thought that the Stetson Ranch would be a good model. She also agreed with Jesse that all sites are different.

Tamara thought that a paragraph regarding the Stetson Ranch for the website would be great. Tiffany said that she would have to talk to Blane Tucker, who had done the spraying.

Pete said that he has already created an Herbicide page on the website, but that it is currently not visible to the public. When he gets materials for the page he will pursue getting it organized and published.

**Task 12: Tamara, Jesse, Tiffany, and Pete to coordinate to create and place for Herbicide Use Recommendations on the YRLSP webpage. This may include: MC site results and a Stetson Ranch model.**

### **Eight Discussion: Website**

Pete said that he hasn't worked on the website since last spring and that substantial updates will soon need to be done. When all the 2022 biocontrol information is available and he has the time, he will update the relevant pages with the new mapping and biocontrol data.

He also related to the Group that he still needs to create the series of web maps showing Chloe's satellite remote sensing leafy spurge data. This series will be posted to the website's Research page.

Ben noted that the website is another area that needs to be included in the Succession Discussion. The website has been developed and is maintained through Pete's volunteer hours. He thought that the website was one of the most important successes of the YRLSP and wondered how and if it would be maintained in the future.

Tim emphasized the need to know the costs for the future.

Pete explained that the webpage is hosted on a WIX platform. The YRLSP pays a biannual fee for the domain name and an annual hosting fee of \$168. This does not include Pete's personal costs for his GIS mapping software licensing. He explained that he pays a \$100/year for a personal license from ESRI, for which the YRLSP is not charged.

Pete told the Group that he is willing to continue working on the website as a volunteer for the foreseeable future.

Tamara also explained that the YRLSP pays for a MapItFast software app license, which is used for all the YRLSP mapping and monitoring. This costs \$500/year for the basic license, plus \$70/month during the field season for the use of the app on two additional tablets. If the YRLSP is to continuing its biocontrol monitoring, this expense will continue.

Tamara said that she has submitted an invoice for \$1,182.95, which covers these expenses: website (\$168); MapItFast (\$640); Biocontrol Collection (\$215.12) and Youth Events (\$159.83).

**Task 13: Pete will update the YRLSP webpage including: 2022 biocontrol information and Chloe's satellite remote sensing data.**

### **Ninth Discussion: Friends of the Yampa/YRLSP Donations Account and YRLSP 2023 Expenses**

Jenny informed the Group that she has an up-to-date Donations Account spread sheet, which includes revenues and expenses. The balance is now \$4,449.26. She has shared it with Ben. This sheet is current as of August 9<sup>th</sup>, and includes the most recent payments to John and Ben for the Show Me Float, plus the \$1,500 donation from Moffat County for 2022.

Tamara, as a Board Member of FOTY, explained that FOTY has a new accounting firm that specializes in non-profits. She asked Jenny where future invoices should be submitted. Jenny responded that it is best to still send them to Lindsey Marlowe.

Tamara related that she had received an email from Moffat County regarding YRLSP making a 2023 budget request by the end of the month. Tamara has talked to Jesse and he said that he would help with the request for funds before the MCBCC.

Tim asked whether the RC donation was in the FOTY/YRLSP spread sheet. Tiffany explained that the \$1,000 donation was given in December 2021 from a surplus in the RC Weed Program budget. Tim and Tiffany discussed where it would be best for RC funds for the YRLSP to come from. Both thought that the RC Weed Board was not the correct source. Tim said that he would like future RC funding to probably come out of the RC Weed Program budget.

**Task 14: Ben the share the latest FOTY/YRLSP Donations Account spread sheet with the Working Group Members.**

**Task 15: Tiffany to discuss with the YRLSP a 2023 budget request.**

**Task 16: Tamara and Jesse to coordinate on a request for funds in the 2023 Moffat County budget.**

### **Tenth Discussion: YRLSP Partner Updates**

#### **Friends of the Yampa: Water Congress Meeting and Score Card Project**

Jenny reported that there is a Water Congress meeting in Steamboat Springs on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. She thought that it might be an opportunity for the YRLSP to outreach. There will be tables set up from 8:00am to 10:00am for non-profit organizations to interact with the participants. Ben volunteered to set up the YRLSP poster and have handouts for the public.

Jenny also reported that the data from the Middle Yampa Section of FOTY Score Card Project (regarding the condition of the Yampa River) should be posted early in 2023. There still needs to be some contact with landowners to fill in some information. Tamara said that she had heard some negative comments from landowners about the Score Card Project. Jenny will check with Tamara to see what the landowner problems are.

#### **RC Weed Program: 2022 Biocontrol Releases**

Tiffany informed the Group that the RC Weed Program had released 1,000 leafy spurge beetles during 2022. She said that she would get the release coordinates to the YRLSP for mapping.

**Task 17: Ben to coordinate with Jenny for the YRLSP outreach at the Water Congress.**

**Task 18: Jenny and Tamara will coordinate to understand what the landowner issues are regarding the Score Card Project.**

**Task 19: Tiffany to submit the coordinates of the RC Weed Program 2022 beetle releases to Pete for inclusion in the YRLSP biocontrol information.**

Meeting Adjourned: 12:15am

**Next Proposed YRLSP Meeting: Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at the Carpenter Ranch and by Zoom**