

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
MEETING**

November 8th, 2018

10:00am at the Carpenter Ranch

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions (Note: Invited Clinton Whitten, RC NRCS to the meeting.) (5 minutes)
2. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
3. Update on Moffat County Weed and Pest Management (Ray, Jessica) 5 minutes
4. Report on Prof Dan Tekiela's visit for Research Sites (Tyler, Barry, Chris, Jessica) 10 minutes
 - a. Need for Follow-up Spring Visit
5. Report on Approval of YRLSP Application for \$89,000 from CCWB Water Supply Reserve Funds (Tim) 5 minutes
6. Update CWCB/University of Wy Research Grant (Tamara) 20 minutes
 - Next Steps:
 - a. Contract with CWCB and FOTY
 - b. Set up accounting process with FOTY
 - c. Follow-up on funding matches
 - d. Coordinate with Univ of Wy and Prof. Tekiela
 - e. Report to the YWGRT
 - f. List of deliverables
7. Update on 2018 CDA Weed Fund Statement of Work Modifications from Meeting with Lara Duran Thursday November 1st (Lynn, Greg, Ray, Ben) 15 minutes
8. Report on 2nd Quarter 2018 CDA WF Grant (Lynn, Ben) 5 minutes
9. Do List for Completion of 2018 CDA WF Grant (Group) 10 minutes
 - a. Landowner letter with brochure (John)
 - b. MapItFast license: Discussion of funding by Routt County (Pete, Greg)
 - c. Presentations
 - d. Refresh website: Discussion of using FOTY Donation Funds (Anne, Cody)
 - e. Other
10. Report on Beetle Release Efforts (Tamara) 10 minutes
 - a. Contacts with John Kaltenbach and Palisade Nursery
 - b. Mapping: Routt County, Moffat County, and CPW
 - c. Next steps

11. Discussion of 2019 CDA Weed Fund Grant Application due December 15th (Group)
15 minutes

- a. TeePee Draw treatment (3rd) (Jessica, Ray)
- b. West of Hayden 100 +/- plus 30 acres, match (3rd) (Greg, Barry)
- c. Do we want to add a new 100 +/- acres treatment site? Does this conflict with the Research Project? (Group)
- d. CPW treatments: YRSWA and River Access Sites (Tyler)
- e. Landowner Coordination (Barry)
- f. Beetle releases: new, identify/map/stake existing, and monitoring protocols (Group)
- g. Mapping: This may be a part of the Research Project, match (Pete, Ben)
- h. Other

12. Updates and New Initiatives: (10 minutes)

- a. Stream Management Plans (Tamara, Ben)
- b. State Land Board weed funds (Jerod)
- c. Dinosaur National Monument EDDs mapping (Lisa)
- d. 2019 Show Me Float June 21st (John)

13. Other: 5 minutes

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday, January 10th at 1:00pm at the Carpenter Ranch

Proposed Adjournment (3:00pm)

Meeting Packet:

1. Proposed Agenda
2. Proposed Modifications of 10/19/2018 to 2018 CDA Grant
3. 2018 CDA 2nd Quarter Report
4. Landowner Letter

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

November 8, 2018 10:00am

Carpenter Ranch

Draft Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Executive Committee Present

Ray Beck	MC Commissioner
Greg Brown	Routt County Weed Program
Barry Castagnasso	Routt County Landowner
Tamara Naumann	MC Citizen
Ben Beall	RC Citizen
Tyler Jacox	Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Advisory Committee Present

Pete Williams	MC Citizen (Mapping)
Jessica Counts	MC CSU Extension
Todd Hagenbuch	RC CSU Extension
Jerod Smith	SLB Northwest Colorado

Guest

John Sundberg	RC Citizen
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Ben Beall opened the meeting at 10:05am. Ben asked everyone to introduce themselves and he asked John Sundberg to let everyone know his background and interest in leafy spurge.

Ben announced that he had invited Clinton Whitten the new RC NRCS staff member but he was unavailable to attend.

Ben asked if there were any additions for the agenda. Ben explained that with the discussion of agenda Item #7 that he had received a revised "modifications" sheet from Lara Duran. Tamara Naumann wanted time to get everyone to sign a card thanking the Parrotheads for assisting with the ShowMeFloat and donating the barbecue.

Tamara passed out a thank-you card for the Parrotheads for everyone to sign.

Meeting Discussions:

First Discussion: Update on Moffat County Weed and Pest Management

Ray Beck announced that the MC Board of County Commissioners had approved to hire Jessie Schroeder as MC Weed and Pest Manager. He would start December 17th. Jessica (Jessie) Counts said that he was from Southwest Colorado and that he was hired not only due to his knowledge of noxious weeds and Northwest Colorado but he had the right name.

Second Discussion: Report on Prof Dan Tekiela's visit for Research Sites

Tyler Jacox said that Dan was not too excited about the two sites on the YRSWA due to the fact that they had been treated with chemicals in the past. Barry Castagnasso related that Dan would be using intensive grazing on the research sites and that the diverse Wagner Gravel Pit sites (riparian, hay meadow, and cotton wood forest) looked like they would work. Jessica said that the Four Mile Creek SLB site with its islands and access looked like good sites. She asked Jerod Smith whether there would be any issues with the SLB or the leasee. Jerod said that there would have to be a SLB permit and he thought that the Peroulises would be willing to work with the YRLSP. He did think that this site had not been repeatedly treated in the past.

Ben brought up the report that the Forest Service had given a \$500,000 grant to Carbon County WY to treat leafy spurge. He thought that since Four Mile Creek is a tributary of the Little Snake that there may be an opportunity for collaboration. Greg Brown explained that RC and Carbon County had been treating leafy spurge in the upper Little Snake Area along RC 129 for years and that he thought that it was pretty much under control.

Tamara passed out Dan Tekiela's site visit report and his Recruitment Notice for the research interns. Dan had reported that he had had good response.

There was a group discussion about Dan Tekiela's interest in targeted grazing. Barry wondered why Dan preferred sheep. It will be easier to bring in the 8 to 10 sheep necessary for the research. Greg cautioned that it will take a lot of dedication to manage the sheep at least twice a day with appropriate pens. Tamara thought that she might be able to get kid panels and water troughs from DNM.

The group discussed the need for a follow-up site visit in the Spring. The optimal time would be early May to mid-May due to the local climate.

Task 1: Jerod will send out the necessary info on the permit application and any other issues that need to be addressed with the landowner.

Task 2: Tamara will meet with Jerod to figure out the permit process.

Third Discussion: Report of Approval of the YRLSP Application for \$89,000 from CWCB Water Supply Reserve Funds

Ben explained that Tim Corrigan had been the YRLSP member who assisted in the presentation to CWCB and that Tim was disappointed that he couldn't make today's meeting due to the flu. However since both Ben and Barry had attended, an update was possible. Barry thought that the CWCB was pleased that they were receiving an application to manage weeds. It might have been a first. There was not much discussion since very little time was allocated to the many applications. Jay Gallagher, the Yampa and White Basin representative on CWCB explained the project to the Board, the YWGRT approval process, and made the motion to approve. Tamara thought that with this approval it may open up other opportunities for future state funds.

Fourth Discussion: Update on CWCB/University of WY Research Grant

Tamara opened this discussion by stating that in her conversations with Dan Tekiela that there were some exciting developments in leafy spurge research: 1. There is some genetic research that shows that there may be several leafy spurge species. 2. There may be an opportunity of a new approach to chemical treatments in riparian habitats.

Tamara has been in personal contact with CWCB regarding the contract between CWCB and The Friends of the Yampa, the fiscal agent for the CWCB grant. Before a Notice to Proceed can be signed FOTY needs to get a reissuance of their insurance adding the State of CO.

Tamara thought that Dan Tekiela was excited about the research project but was worried about how to approach the issue of hand pulling on sand bars.

Tamara passed out a spread sheet showing the matches that the YRLSP members signed up for and that were included in the CWCB grant. The YRLSP needs to make sure that if there are two outstanding grants that the required matches are kept separate and only used in the appropriate grant. The group expressed the desire to add CSU Extension into the match sheet. Tamara was asked to add a line for matches under both Routt County and Moffat County for the respective Extensions offices so they could assist and be credited for their efforts in completing the grant.

Tamara reviewed the deliverables from the grant application: 1. Develop a watershed scale management framework for leafy spurge in the Yampa Valley through mapping and predictive modeling; 2. Identify best integrated management practices for reducing leafy spurge seed production in four (possibly 5) specific riparian habitat types in the Yampa Valley; and 3. Education and Outreach—Engage youth in the Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project, using biological control as a means to encourage learning, participation and productive involvement.

Ben thought it would be a good idea that the YRLSP give a report to the YWGRT regarding the progress on the grant. Tamara who attends the Roundtable meetings thought that they were busy with other subjects i.e. Stream Management Plans. She said that she would contact Jackie Brown, Chairperson of the Roundtable and get her advice.

Task 3: Tamara will continue to work with CWCB and FOTY to finalize a signed Notice to Proceed.

Task 4: Tamara will add RC and MC CSU Extensions to the Matching Sheet for the CWCB grant.

Task 5: Tamara will continue to work with Prof Dan Tekiela and keep the YRLSP members in the loop as to any developments.

Task 6: Tamara will check with Jackie Brown to see what and if a Report to the YWGRT would be appropriate.

Fifth Discussion: Update on 2018 CDA Weed Fund Grant Modifications

Ben reported that Lara Duran had sent a new spread sheet after a meeting regarding modifications to the 2018 CDA Grant. This meeting took place in Hayden on November 1st. Attendees were: Ben, Greg, Jessica, Ray, and Lynn.

In her latest email of 11/07/2018 and spread sheet Lara said that CDA would not be looking for modifications. CDA would look at the YRLSP grant application and grant Statement of Work with budget in order to figure out what items would be funded with the 2018 CDA Grant. Ben though it would be a waste of time to review the proposed modifications.

Ben explained that he thought that this would be an easier route in completing the grant and asked the group for their approval to work with Lara and CDA to answer CDA's questions and complete the grant. The Group by consensus gave Ben its approval to work with Lara and report back to the group.

Task 7: Ben will work with Lara Duran, CDA, to answer CDA's questions and work with Lynn to complete a Final Report.

Task 8: Ben will communicate with the YRLSP members regarding completion of required activities and matches in the 2018 CDA Weed Fund Grant.

Sixth Discussion: Report on 2nd Quarter 2018 WF Grant

Ben referenced the 2nd Quarter Report which was included in the meeting packet. The Report was completed, signed, and sent to CDA by Lynn on October 23rd. It presented the proposed modifications which were discussed above mainly caused by the inability to complete various treatments due to the drought (See Discussion 5). There was only one request for payment, \$20.34 for copies for the Sept 24th meeting.

Seventh Discussion: Do List for Completion of 2018 CDA WF Grant

Ben explained that in Lara Duran's latest email of 11/07/2018 she had said that CDA would fund or partially fund: obtaining landowner access permissions, website maintenance, education seminars and letters, and CO First administrative fees. Funding would be based on the completion of matches which equaled a 1 to 1 match to fund ratio.

Ben thought that if we could answer CDA's questions and complete some of the matches that were remaining that the above items could be funded. If the above items could be completed considering the affects of the drought on the grant, the YRLSP should be able to have a successful completion of the 2018 CDA grant.

Ben reminded the group that there was approximately \$500 in the YRLSP/FOTY Donations Account that could also be used.

The group reviewed the draft landowner letter that was being put together by John Husband. Todd Hagenbuch thought that it should be cut in half. Greg said we need to make sure that the landowners know that "they are an important part of the project". Pete Williams said that the landowners need to hear "what you can do upfront". Tamara emphasized that the landowners need to know "we need your help".

Ben reminded the group that one of the tasks that we couldn't accomplish due to the drought was mapping the leafy spurge infestations from West of Hayden to Loudy Simpson and Little Yampa Canyon. A part of this task could still be accomplished. Pete was never able to complete the preparation for the mapping because of the difficulty of the mapping process. Pete has proposed to solve this by purchasing a MapItFast license for the YRLSP. Greg has proposed that RC would be able to fund the license. Jessica suggested that RC and MC share the \$500 expense. She suggested that the YRLSP use CO First to invoice for the license. Ben thought that this expense could be used as match in the 2018 CDA Grant.

In a group discussion it was agreed that it was necessary to update/refresh the YRLSP website.

Task 9: Ben will review the CDA grant application and Statement of Work and contact the various YRLSP members who are responsible or have volunteered to complete the 2018 CDA Grant activities and matches i. e. landowner permissions (Barry) and website update (Cody Perry/Anne Doughty).

Task 10: The YRLSP members will send their comments on John's landowner letter to John.

Task 11: Jessica will work with CO First and Greg to fund the purchase of a license for MapItFast. The license will need to be coordinated with Pete who will be the principal for the license.

Eighth Discussion: Report on Beetle Releases

Tamara reported that she has been in contact with John Kaltenbach, CDA, and she plans on visiting the Palisade Insectary. One of the main issues is that there are no comprehensive mapping of the existing release sites.

Pete is trying to get all the existing data sheets and create a base map with the existing sites. John Kaltenbach has said that the Insectary has information on the contemporary releases from 2008 to the present. Greg said that RC has release data and collection information. Jessica said that MC has recent release data and for earlier data Gary Brannon should be contacted. Also, Barry has firsthand knowledge of releases in the West of Hayden area. Chris Rhyne, BLM, should know where to access the BLM data. Pete asked the members involved that even if the data is only on county maps, paper maps, or just digital points that this information could be used.

The group also discussed the need for protocols for the release sites: markers, signs, and coordination with landowners if releases were on private property or other public lands. The group was in agreement that biocontrol is one of the most important pieces to the management of leafy spurge.

Tamara explained the third task in the YRLSP's CWCB grant and its importance to the opportunity of managing leafy spurge over the long term with biocontrol. The goal is not only to increase beetle releases but also to work with kids and have them learn about biocontrol as an educational tool. She sees the kids visiting the sites, harvesting beetles, and helping to release to new sites. John Kaltenbach can supply bug nets and Greg said that RC has a couple. This educational effort will raise the awareness for the public of biocontrol and its relationship to leafy spurge management. Jessica volunteered to work with the Boys and Girls Club to see to get them involved. Todd thought that CSU Extension could help especially regarding Master Gardeners.

Task 12: Tamara will coordinate with John Kaltenbach and the Palisade Insectary for future beetle releases and information on past releases.

Task 13: Pete will be the focal point for all beetle release information so the past and future release sites can be mapped.

Task 14: YRLSP members (RC, MC, BLM, Barry) will forward to Pete the organizations beetle release information and assist Pete in contacting other individuals whom may be able to help with release information.

Ninth Discussion: Application of a 2019 CDA Weed Fund Grant

Ben opened the discussion by stating that he thought it appropriate for the YRLSP to apply for a 2019 CDA grant since fall treatments in 2018 for leafy spurge were cut short by the drought. As per the treatment protocol of the YRLSP we at least need a third treatment in Tepee Draw and the West of Hayden 100 +/- acres. Greg thought that it would be good to show CDA that three treatments in Tepee Draw would be completed. Tamara agreed that the YRLSP needed to maintain a good relationship with CDA.

Jessica recommended that the YRLSP take a year off from applying for a CDA Weed Fund Grant. She said that MC and BLM could fund the Tepee Draw treatments in 2019 and it may be easier if MC would apply to CDA for funds in 2020. For her it seems that as an organization with multiple members that it is just too difficult to manage and complete CDA grants in their present form. Tamara also thought that the YRLSP should take a year off.

Ben voiced his concern that with a year off the YRLSP may be losing some ability to manage the leafy spurge infestations through completion of treatments and moving on to a new 100 acres as per the YRLSP plan. Greg thought that the 10-Year Treatment Plan created with the 2016 CDA Grant was flexible enough that a year off would be acceptable. Greg thought that the goals of the YRLSP were immense and with a year off we might be able to be more selective with CDA in the future.

Barry said that he had seen some success in the last two years in the treated areas. However, he thought that it best that the YRLSP take a look at the recently treated areas in the Spring and evaluate for success. With this on the ground review a decision could be made on future treatments and the timing of the treatments.

The group agreed that a one-year pause would not be against the YRLSP goals and the 10-Year Treatment Plan and that an inspection in the Spring of treated areas before deciding on the timing of future treatments. The treatments contemplated in 2019 are the 3rd treatments on Tepee Draw and the 100 +/- acres West of Hayden. With the consensus not to apply for a 2019 CDA WF Grant it was thought that a letter to CDA would be appropriate explaining that the YRLSP would continue to follow the 10-Year Plan and would contemplate requesting CDA Weed Funds in the future.

The group also wanted Barry to propose where the next 100 acres for treatment West of Hayden would be. It may be appropriate to look at the SLB and adjacent private property downstream from the existing treatment site. When he is looking at these acres he should also propose areas where biocontrol would be appropriate.

Task 15: The YRLSP members will survey and inspect past treatment sites in the Spring of 2019 and make a recommendation for future treatments.

Task 16: Jessica will assist the new MC Weed and Pest Manager and BLM in planning for a 3rd Treatment if appropriate in Tepee Draw for 2019.

Task 17: Greg will plan and contract for treatment for the 3rd treatment on the 100 +/- acres West of Hayden if appropriate in 2019.

Task 18: Barry will recommend a new 100+/- acres West of Hayden for future treatment. He should look at this site to see if it may contain leafy spurge infestations that would be appropriate for beetle releases.

Tenth Discussion: Updates and New Initiatives

a. Stream Management Plans: Tamara said that she and Ben had been contacted by Nicole Seltzer of the River Network who is working with the YWGRT to develop 3 Stream Management Plans on different reaches of the Yampa modeled after what Steamboat Springs did on the reach from Stagecoach through the city limits and on the Basin Implementation Plan of the RT. Nicole thought that the YRLSP could help with the required mapping while mapping for leafy spurge. Tamara explained that this would not work due to leafy spurge mapping constraints. However, the YRLSP would like to collaborate with the RT in their creation of the SMPs.

b. SLB Weed Fund: Ben asked Jerod Smith, SLB, who had told Ben that the SLB has a fund for weed control if the YRLSP could access these funds. Jerod thought that it would be possible but there would be some hoops. In the discussion it was thought that these funds might be able to be used on the next 100 +/- acre treatment area under consideration since this area contains a large SLB parcel.

Next Meeting: January 10th at 10:00am at the Carpenter Ranch

Adjourned: 1:15pm