

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
MEETING**

**Thursday July 13, 2017
1:00pm at the Carpenter, Ranch**

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions (5 minutes)
2. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
3. Updates:(15 minutes)
 - a. Final 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant (Lynn Haskins/Greg Brown)
 1. 10-year Plan
 2. Mapping
 - b. Statement of Work for 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant (Greg)
 - c. Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with Friends of the Yampa (Ben Beall)
 - d. YRLSP Website work by Anne Sullivan (Ben)
4. Report and Comments on YRLSP Presentation at Friends of the Yampa, State of the Yampa Event (Tim Corrigan) (5 minutes)
5. Report from the 2017 Show Me Float (John Husband) (15 minutes)
6. Approval of Work Plan of Jodi Elam, Western State University Grad Student (Ben et al) (10 minutes)
7. Educational Opportunities (Marsha Daudhenbaugh) (5 minutes)
8. Reports regarding Leafy Spurge Treatments (25 minutes)
 - a. West of Hayden (Greg/Barry Castagnasso/Don Stinton)
 - b. Teepee Draw (Jessica Counts/Troy Osborn)
 - c. Dinosaur Weed Warrior Program (Tamara Naumann/Ben)
 - d. Continuing Treatments(Greg/Jessica/CPW/State Parks/Chris Rhyne)
9. Discussion regarding How to Treat New Areas of Leafy Spurge Infestations (15 minutes)
 - a. 10-year Plan
 - b. Little Yampa Canyon (John/Ben/Chris)
 - c. Little Snake River (Cody Perry/Jessica/Chris)

10. Futures Discussions (Group) (20 minutes)
 - a. Follow-up on Strategic Planning Work Session
 - b. Future Funding/YRLSP Grant Committee
 1. 2017 HPP Grant (Kris Middeldorf has volunteered)
 2. Colorado Water Conservation Board Grant (Nicole Seltzer has volunteered)
 3. Tamarisk Coalition
 4. Private Foundations
 5. Others
 - c.. Organizational Structure
 - d. Meeting Schedule for 2017

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday September 14th

Adjourn (3:00)

Meeting Packet:

1. Agenda
2. 2016 Final Report
3. 10-year Plan
4. Final 2017 Show Me Float List

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

July 13, 2017 1:00pm
Carpenter Ranch
Draft Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Executive Committee Present

Tim Corrigan	Routt County Commissioner
Jessica Counts	MC Weed and Pest Manager
Greg Brown	RC Weed Program Supervisor
Barry Castagnasso	Routt County Land Owner
Chris Rhyne	Little Snake BLM
Ben Beall	Yampa River System Legacy Partnership
John Husband	Northwest Colorado Citizen Representative

Advisory Committee

Marsha Daughenbaugh	Yampa Valley Community Ag Alliance
Anne Sullivan	YRLSP Website Coordinator

Ben Beall opened the meeting at around 1:05pm. Ben asked everyone to introduce themselves due to the fact that Anne Sullivan was present. Ben explained that Anne has been working as the YRLSP website administrator as a volunteer.

Ben asked if there were any additions for the agenda. Ben acknowledged that since the first Proposed Agenda that there were two additions requested by Todd Hagenbuch, Approval of Work Plan for Jodi Elam and Marsha Daughenbaugh, Educational Opportunities.

Ben thought that as we work through the agenda that the group should focus on what are the YRLSP's next steps. He acknowledged that there is a feeling of frustration by many as to the Project. However, he wanted everyone to know that he felt that the YRLSP has accomplished a lot in two years. Tim Corrigan agreed with the frustration expressed by Ben but the Project is making progress. He made the example that it was good to see Nicole Seltzer on the Float Trip. With her experience she could bring new resources to the Project.

Meeting Discussions:

First Discussion: Update on Final 2016 Weed Fund Grant.

Ben expressed concern that Steve Ryder, CDA Weed Program, in an email from Lara Duran was wondering what this agenda item was about. Greg thought that some of the difficulties with CDA were caused by personnel changes.

Greg updated the group that all information needed for the Final Report had been submitted to CDA. Greg explained that he had submitted a realistic 10-year Plan based on the funding available and Routt and Moffat Counties' Weed program capabilities. If the YRLSP obtains more funding the 10-year Plan can be modified. This 10-year Plan which is included in the meeting packet includes an action section for the YRLSP Committee which includes: Prioritization of leafy spurge treatment in the Focus Area; Refining the 10-year Plan; and Explore Outside Funding Sources.

Tim asked if RC and MC should require its citizens to live up to the CO Weed Laws. Jessica Counts said that MC relies on outreach to its property owners. Tim said that RC is taking a property owner to court in a test case regarding noxious weed treatments.

Greg explained that he had sent various maps to CDA to fulfill CDA's request for mapping as required. He used a model sent to him by Lara. These maps were passed around for viewing. Greg had some difficulty regarding access to these maps from the cloud by CDA. He also expressed frustration with CDA changing the mapping format. He thought that CDA should go to the Google Maps format for ease of use.

Jessica Counts asked Greg if the funds for the 2016 grant had been sent to CO First. Troy Osborn was asking if he could be paid. Ben recommended that Jessica check with Lynn Haskins to see if the funds were available.

Second Discussion: Statement of Work for the 2017 CDA Grant

Greg advised the group that there is a conference call with Lara on Monday at 9:00am to finalize the SOW. He hoped that Lara would be open to a realistic SOW due to the fact that CDA only funded the YRLSP application for \$10,000 instead of the \$38,000 requested.

Third Discussion: Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with Friends of the Yampa

Ben reminded the group that at the May 11th meeting this Agreement had been approved. He reported that there had been no further donations made and that there still is the original \$100 donation in the FOY account.

Fourth Discussion: YRLSP Website

Ben pointed out that the YRLSP had seen the importance of the YRLSP video and he thought that with the proper administration that the YRLSP website could have as much

influence. Anne Sullivan explained that she has been updating the website and thought that it needs a better explanation regarding donations. Greg asked Anne if she could upload the most recent maps. Ben asked everyone to review the website with its changes and get back to Anne with any suggestions.

Fifth Discussion: Friends of the Yampa State of the Yampa Event

Tim updated the group on his presentation of the YRLSP video to a packed house at the Chief Theater in Steamboat Springs (150 plus). The video was really effective. Tim explained that he had brought a tape measure to show the crowd that leafy spurge could have roots up to 30 feet long.

Tim was concerned that the video and the YRLSP has no “ask”. There were young people who wanted to do something to volunteer to help with the Project.

Ben thought that we could enlist river users to assist with leafy spurge treatments. Jessica was uncomfortable with sending out volunteers. How can we train volunteers? Tim thought that through FOY that we had an opportunity to manage river users for leafy spurge treatments.

The group discussed in general the difficulty that the Project has had in creating this “ask” for the Project: lack of resources; difficulty in various restricted chemicals; and in general what is the way forward to stop the spread of leafy spurge along the Yampa.

It was agreed that the YRLSP needs to come up with this “ask” to have a possibility of receiving funds and to get the young environmentally interested people involved.

Ben suggested that for the next meeting we have a discussion in regards to coming up with this “ask” and a roadmap for dealing with this 100-mile infestation.

Sixth Discussion: 2017 Show Me Float

John Husband thought that the Float went well. The river level was adequate and there was a good cross section of people (24). There were good discussions not only on the rafts but also at the BBQ. John thought it interesting that Steve Ryder who was on his raft was looking at the various infestation locations and trying to figure out how best to deal with the leafy spurge in the Yampa’s riparian areas just like the YRLSP members.

Marsha wanted to make sure that John thanked the Parrot Heads for hosting the BBQ.

Anne suggested that we need to get some photos to put on the website. Ben again requested everyone who took pictures to send them to him and he would get them to Anne.

Seventh Discussion: Approval of Work Plan for Jodi Elam, Western State University Grad Student

Jessica presented a Project Summary put together by Jodi which states Jodi's responsibilities: outlining past and present management strategies for leafy spurge; create experimental study plots; and write a project proposal for future control. This Project Summary needs to be signed by the Community Sponsor. Jessica explained that RC CSU Extension is the Community Sponsor so Todd Hagenbuch will be the signee.

Jessica explained the changes she had made to Jodi's Project Summary including: MC's contributions to Jodi's project, funding of a daily stipend of \$150; and \$750 for expenses.

Jessica explained that she had added a list of all the members to the Summary and asked everyone to fill in what they can contribute to Jodi's project to assist the YRLSP.

Tim and Greg thought that RC would be able to come up with funds for this project.

Ben explained that since Jodi will be working with and on the YRLSP that the group needs to approve the Project Summary. The group approved conceptually the Project Summary as put together by Jodi with the changes made by Jessica with the following comments: One, there needs to be an ending date; and Two, everyone needs to send their comments and proposed contributions to Todd .

Marsha reminded everyone regarding the The Nature Conservancy Intern who was on the Float. He was a CU grad student and said that he was interested in finding a fungus that may assist in the management of leafy spurge. The YRLSP needs to follow up with him. We need to ask Geoff Blakeslee for his name and email address.

Eighth Discussion: Educational Opportunities

Marsh wanted to reiterate the importance of taking advantage of all educational opportunities to get out the message about the YRLSP. She thought that one of the ways would be to find more venues to show the video which seems to work well. She passed out YRLSP brochures and cards with pertinent information to get out to interested groups and individuals.

Jessica announced that she was going to have an air conditioned both at the MC Fair and that she could tie in with a noxious weed presentation including leafy spurge. There was a suggestion to possible have a monitor that could show the YRLSP video

Ninth Discussion: Reports on 2017 Leafy Spurge Treatments

1. Barry Castagnosso said that Don Stinton had finished his chemical treatments on about 100 acres West of Hayden. Greg advised the group that we need to better delineate our leafy spurge nurseries. Don had inadvertently treated one of the nurseries on the State Wildlife Area. Barry and Greg both agreed that we need to obtain more beetles not only to replace this nursery but also for further biological control. Greg thought that John Kaltenback had already reserved beetles for the YRLSP from the Palisade nursery.

2. Jessica reported that Troy Osborn had treated the outlying infestations in the Teepee Draw area. However, he could not get down through a cliff area in Teepee Draw. Troy is planning on treating this area again next year with the 2017 Grant funds and would like to find a way down. Jessica thought that it might be better to come up from the river. Ben suggested that that may be difficult due to the steepness and all the boulder climbing necessary to access the upper parts of Teepee Draw. Jessica said that she will be meeting with Tamara Naumann within the next couple of weeks to talk about Teepee Draw.

3. Ben reported that he had just come off the 2017 Yampa Weed Warrior trip. They had seen more leafy spurge this year than any other year in the last 15 years. The trip stopped at at least four locations to hand pull leafy spurge even in Island Park in Utah. The bright sign was that there seemed to be less leafy spurge in Teepee Draw. This could be a sign that the aerial treatments by BLM and Moffat County in the large infestation area above Teepee are having an effect.

4. Greg and Jessica reiterated that both RC and MC will continue to treat leafy spurge through their programs. Jessica said that she had gotten a call from a property owner near Elkhead Reservoir who she thought was from RC asking for help in treatment for a leafy spurge infestation Barry said that he knew where this was. Chris Rhyne said that BLM contracts with MC Weed and Pest Management for all their noxious weed treatments for \$85,000.

Tenth Discussion:

1. Little Yampa Canyon: Ben said that he had been able to make a trip down LYC with CPW in there jet boat and thought that hand pulling could be a treatment in LYC. John disagreed. He thought the infestations were too old and large.

Greg said that the YRLSP needs to categorize the levels of leafy spurge i.e. if it is a 100% leafy spurge infestation with no native plants ie. cottonwoods or willows then it could be treated with Rodeo/Roundup.

Again the group had a general discussion about how was the YRLSP going to deal with this infestation where the seeds go into the Yampa and are transported downstream. Jessica asked John if she could go and see LYC first hand. John and Jessica will try and set up a trip within the next couple a weeks.

2. Little Snake River: Ben said that he had gotten a report from Cody Perry and Jason Peasley who took a 40-mile overnight trip down the Little Snake. They encountered patches of leafy spurge during the trip which they thought could be hand pulled. They reported that most of the leafy spurge was on BLM land and even in a MC gravel pit. Jessica said that she would check out the pit. Since it seems that in the LYC and on the Little Snake that most of the infestations are on BLM lands, Ben was hopeful that BLM would prioritize the riparian areas for treatment. Jessica reminded the group that MC is given funds to treat noxious weeds for BLM in Moffat County.

Eleventh Discussion: Future Discussions

The group thought that this discussion needs to have plenty of time. Next meeting will concentrate on these topics: Fundraising and the “ask”.

Marsha brought up the idea that the YRLSP should go to the Yampa/White/Green Roundtable and request funding for leafy spurge treatments. The next meeting of the Roundtable is in September before the next meeting of the YRLSP. She thought that we should give the Roundtable members an update of our intent to request funding in order to see if they were receptive before creating a full application. Ben and Marsha will get together to plan for a possible application to the Roundtable.

Next Meeting: Thursday September 14th

Meeting Adjourned 3:10m