

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
MEETING**

**Thursday January 10th, 2019
10:00am at the HaydenTown Hall**

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions: Welcome (5 minutes)
 - Jesse Schroeder, MC Weed and Pest Manager
 - Clinton Whitten, NRCS, Steamboat Springs
2. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
3. Discussion of 2019 Meeting Schedule and Meeting Time (Group) 10 minutes
 - a. Now: Meetings scheduled bimonthly on the 2nd Thursday
 - b. In September meeting time changed to 10:00am from 1:00pm
4. 2018 Accomplishments (Group) 15 minutes
 - a. See attachment
5. Update on 2018 CDA WF Grant Final Report (Ben, Lynn) 10 minutes
 - a. Landowner letter and next steps (John)
 - b. Website update and future work needs (Cody)
6. Update on Donations Account with Friends of the Yampa (Ben) 10 minutes
 - a. Account balance
 - b. Discussion/Decision of expenditures for 2018 (Group)
7. Report on Research Grant (Tamara) 25 minutes
 - a. Update on partner funding match
 - b. Updates from communications with Prof Dan Tiekela
 - c. Meetings and Planning for Beetle Releases and Youth Activities
 - d. Coordination with CWCB and FOTY as Fiscal Agent
 - e. Next steps
8. Mapping Requirements (Pete) 10 minutes
 - a. Existing beetle release sites
 - b. MapItFast License
 - c. MapItFast Strider form and coordination with EDDs Maps requirements
 - d. Plans for leafy spurge mapping of LYC and Hayden to South Beach
9. 2019 Goals/Do List (Group) 25 minutes
 - a. Work with and assist University of Wy Prof. Tiekela and Interns on Research Grant

- b. Complete mapping of 2018 leafy spurgetreatment sites and upload to CDA EDDs Maps
- c. Complete mapping of existing beetle release sites
- d. Follow-up on 2018 Landowner Letter
- e. Complete website update
- f. Fund and complete 3rd treatment protocols: TePee Draw and West of Hayden 115+/- acs
- g. Continue Dinosaur National Monument leafy spurge mechanical removal
- h. Continue outreach presentations
- i. Reports to supporting organizations: YWGRT, FOTY Board, MC and RC BCC, CDA and the YRSLP
- j. Map the leafy spurge infestations in LYC and from West of Hayden to South Beach
- k. 2019 Show Me Float (overnight) June 21st
- l. Coordinate with the YWGRT Stream Management Planning (understanding the leafy spurge infestations)
- m. Decision on applying for a 2020 CDA WF Grant(s)

10. Other: 5 minutes

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Research Grant Meetings: Biocontrol and Engaging Youth in February

YRSLP Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 14th at 10:00am at the Carpenter Ranch
(To be discussed)

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

Meeting Packet:

Proposed Agenda
2018 Accomplishments
Donations Account Friends of theYampa

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

January 10, 2019 10:00am

Hayden Town Hall

Draft Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Working Group Members Present

Ray Beck	Moffat County Commissioner
Tim Corrigan	Routt County Commissioner
Greg Brown	Routt County Weed Program
Jesse Schroeder	Moffat County Weed and Pest Management
Barry Castagnasso	Routt County Landowner
Kendall Smith	Moffat County NRCS
Clinton Whitten	Routt County NRCS
Tamara Naumann	Moffat County Citizen
Ben Beall	Routt County Citizen
John Husband	Moffat County Citizen
Tyler Jacox	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Pete Williams	Moffat County Citizen
Jessica Counts	Moffat County CSU Extension

Guests

John Sundberg	Routt County Citizen
Dr. Dan Tiekela	University of WY, Plant Science Department
Chloe Mattilio	Graduate Student UWY Plant Science Department
Mathew Mendisco	Hayden Town Manager
Emily Spencer	Interested party

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 10:05am. Ben asked everyone to introduce themselves. Ben welcomed Jesse Schroeder and Clinton Whitten to the group and stated how important both the Moffat County Weed and Pest Management and NRCS has been for the YRLSP. Ben asked Jesse and Clinton to give the group a little bio information and their experience with leafy spurge. Dan Tiekela introduced Chloe_____ and she stated her interest in assisting with the upcoming research project.

Mathew Mendisco, Hayden Town Manager, welcomed the Group to Hayden. Ben thanks Mathew for allowing the YRLSP to meet in the Hayden Town hall.

Ben asked if there were any additions for the agenda. There were none.

Meeting Discussions:

First Discussion: Discussion of the 2019 Meeting Schedule

Ben explained that both Ray Beck and Tim Corrigan had expressed to him that in order to attend meetings due to 2019 commissioner schedule changes that they would like to see the YRLSP bi-monthly meetings changed to Wednesdays. After discussions the Group agreed to change the bi-monthly meetings to the second Wednesdays of the month. The meeting will be held at 10:00am at the Carpenter Ranch. The next meeting will be Wednesday March 13th at 10:00am.

Task 1: Ben will check with the Carpenter Ranch and see if it is available for 2019. If not he will check with the Town of Hayden to see if the Town Hall is available.

Second Discussion: 2018 Accomplishments

Ben explained to the Group that he thought it a good idea to put down the YRLSP's accomplishments. He pointed out that the YRLSP had accomplished significant steps during 2018. He asked if there were any changes to the YRLSP 2018 Accomplishments which were included in the meeting packet.

Tamara Naumann suggested that the last part of the Accomplishment starting with "Approved Prof. Dan Tiekela..." be deleted since education regarding bio-control was not part of Dan's part of the Research Project. The Group approved adding a new Accomplishment regarding: Education with engaging youth in the bio-control part of the YRLSP Research Grant.

Task 2: Group Members will get back to Ben with any changes or additions to the 2018 Accomplishments

Task 3: Ben will change the 2018 Accomplishments as suggested by the Group with the goal of adding it to the information on the YRLSP website.

Third Discussion: Update on the 2018 CDA Weed Fund Final Report

Ben reported that Lynn Haskins, Colorado First Conservation District, submitted the Final Report to CDA as per the grant requirements. As per the Final Report in the meeting packet the YRLSP returned \$10,183.32 unused funds to CDA. The funds were unused due to: change in grant time frame of only 7 months and drought conditions which precluded fall chemical treatments.

Lynn had reported that Lara Duran, CDA, had some questions regarding the request for payments in the report. CDA asked for extra, not required, documentation i.e. additional invoices etc. It seems that the cost (\$456.78) of the landowner letter was accepted but Ben related from his conversations with Lynn that there may be some concerns regarding full payment (\$800) for the website update. The Group expressed frustrations with CDA and Ben suggested that Greg Brown contact Lara and Steve Ryder, CDA Weed Program Director, to better understand the issue.

Task 4: Greg will call Lara Duran and Steve Ryder and find out what issues are outstanding so that all invoices submitted can be paid.

Fourth Discussion: Update on Landowner Letter

John Husband reported that he had sent out 173 letters to landowners adjacent to the Yampa in Routt and Moffat Counties. He received back a few that were undeliverable due to incorrect addresses which he was trying to correct. From the comments he has received from landowners he has seen, he thinks the effort was a success.

One of the issues he had to address was having a return address for the YRLSP. John said that he paid for a PO Box which he invoiced for in the 2018 CDA WF Final Report. This will be the official address for the YRLSP: PO Box 1674, Craig, CO 81626

John thought that it will be important to have a follow-up letter to all the landowners with more information.

Barry Castagnasso suggested that there should be information on the Research Project, beetle releases, and invites for the Show Me Float.

Dan thought that an invitation could be included for visits to see the on-the-ground research plots to view small plot leafy spurge management.

Greg and Tamara Naumann suggested that it would be a good time to emphasize the YRLSP as a collaboration of two states, WY and CO, and two state Extensions, CSU and WY.

The Group discussed the issue of obtaining permission for the upcoming leafy spurge mapping. The follow-up letter would be a good time to ask for landowner permission. As of this date the YRLSP has zero written permissions from landowners. The Group recommended that a committee should be formed to address the permission issue. John, Ben, Barry, and Jesse volunteered to be on the committee. (See more discussion of permissions in Mapping below.)

Task 5: John to work on a landowner follow-up letter.

Task 6: John, Ben, Barry, and Jesse to meet to formulate a process to overcome the issue surrounding landowner permissions i.e. permission agreement.

Task 7: John to include a revised permission agreement in the letter.

Fifth Discussion: Update on Website Update

Ben had hoped that Cody Perry, Rig To Flip, would have been able to make the meeting and give a report on his efforts on updating the YRLSP website. Ben reviewed with the Group his thoughts on the website update from a recent website visit:

1. The Home page was much improved but was lacking Jesse's name as manager of the MC Weed and Pest under contacts.
2. The Project Info Button contains What's New and Leafy Spurge News with the same info and there is no info under Financial Grants.
3. There are limited maps. This is a known issue that Cody and Pete Williams will address.

Jessica Counts suggested that the website, Home Page, have a list of all the YRLSP partners with their agency/organization logos.

Ben recommended that everyone review the website and get back to Cody with their comments on the website update.

Task 8: Ben to get together with Cody to see if the existing issues could be addressed.

Task 9: Working Group Members will review website and send their comments to Cody with a copy to Ben. Pete volunteered to review the website.

Task 10: Working Group Members will send their agency/organization logos to Cody for inclusion in the website.

Task 11: Pete and Cody will upload Project maps to the website when they become available

Sixth Discussion: Update on Donations Account with Friends of the Yampa

Ben presented an updated spread sheet with all donations by name as of 1/16/2019. Total Donations: \$900. Expense on website update (1/30/2018): \$200. Total Balance: \$700.

The Group discussed their priorities for spending. The following are the Group's priorities:

1. Payment for work done for the 2018 CDA WF Grant if not paid by CDA.
2. Follow-up landowner letter.
3. Complete website update.
4. Expenses for Research Grant
5. LOGO

Task 12: Ben to bring all proposals for payment for Group approval.

Seventh Discussion: Report of Research Grant

Tamara presented a Progress Report handout with General accomplishments to date and accomplishments by Grant Tasks including: Notice to Proceed from CWCB; Agreement between UWY and FOTY for payments; and Invoicing Routt and Moffat Counties for 1st year match funds.

Tamara... "The Research Grant is on schedule".

There had been earlier discussions about using local livestock for the target grazing component of the research. Tamara recommended to Dan that it would be more productive for the research if he could use UWY sheep.

Tyler Jacox said that CPW had worked with a cooperative owner of goats and thought that it is something that we could think about.

Tamara asked Dan for comments. Dan shared with the Group these interesting developments:

1. He has chosen and they have accepted two grad students (Chloe and Hannah) to work on the two-year Research Project. Chloe has a background in remote sensing and mapping and will be working on the task of predictive modeling of the leafy spurge infestations. Hannah will be available in early March for work on the leafy spurge sites.
2. The sites visited in October will be the sites for the research into the management of leafy spurge: Wagner Gravel pit site (3 test sites) and Four-Mile Creek, The Island site. Dan thought that the Wagner site may offer a fourth type for research, the hay field. This test site may be a problem if Wagner wants to hay it again. Dan thought that it would be good to plan for an April-May meeting to revisit the sites and layout out the research plots.

Group comments:

Greg recommended that we offer Wagner hay from another site in exchange for using it for research and not haying with its leafy spurge infestation.

Tamara recommended that we should view other sites with the help of landowners that may be appropriate for the research. She also asked for help from Jesse in getting agreements from Wagner and Stanley Perrulis on Four-Mile. Dan is open to other sites. The ones already chosen are a bare minimum.

3. Dan said that he had been talking with a large chemical company regarding a chemical with a new molecule that has been developed for leafy spurge. It is promising for weed management and can be used in riparian habitats. Dan is proposing to use it as part of his research.

Dan asked Chloe to give the Group an update on her experiences regarding the Task #1 of the Grant: Develop a watershed scale management through mapping and predictive modeling. Chloe explained that with her experience using remote sensing and satellite data that we should be able to pick up leafy spurge infestations. She thought she could use the leafy spurge experience in Fremont County WY, where leafy spurge started in the riparian areas but has invaded other areas of the county to the point that it is not worth paying for management, to predict where leafy spurge may go in the Yampa Basin. The predictive modeling will look at grasses, soil, and habitat types.

Group comments:

Greg and Barry both shared their experiences working with NRCS satellite imagery in 2015 in trying to identify leafy spurge. It was difficult to tell leafy spurge from yellow sweet clover. Chloe thought that the imagery was better today and that working with a computer that we should be able to pick out leafy spurge.

Tamara said that it would be important to get Chloe and Pete together to discussing mapping needs.

Task #3 of the Research Grant is: Education and Outreach-Engage Youth....using biological control.... Tamara explained to the Group that in December they held their first planning meeting in Craig attended by CSU Extension agents from Moffat and Routt Counties among others. They are planning for a July 11th combined Routt and Moffat County, Youth Engagement Field Day to observe biological control on the YRSWA.

Task 13: Greg to check on a source of hay to replace the Wagner hay.

Task 14: John, Jesse, Barry and other Group members should identify through their relationship with landowners leafy spurge infestation sites that may be appropriate for research plots.

Task 15: Jesse to assist Tamara in working with Wagner and Perrulis to make sure that these sites are accessible for the research project.

Task 16: Dan, Chloe, and the Group need to plan for an April/May meeting to revisit the proposed research sites and plan for fulfilling the research tasks.

Task 17: Pete and Chloe need to get together to discuss mapping needs.

Task 18: Tamara and Dan to continue to work together to set up the Research Project.

Eighth Discussion: Mapping Requirements

Pete passed out three maps: 1. A Yampa River Leafy Spruce Project Riparian Areas Of Concern; 2. A Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project Spurge Mapping Overview with proposed river location maps (27) from Maybell to Hayden; and 3. A Leafy Spurge Biological Control Release Site with beetle release sites(24+/-) from 1990 in Routt and Moffat Counties.

Pete explained that each square (Map #2) will be an individual map that would be available to the public maybe on the website. One of the maps, Tepee Draw is not on the Yampa. Pete asked Jessica if the Tepee Draw infestations had been mapped. She said that it had been mapped in 2016. Pete thought that maybe there needed to be a couple other off river maps: Fortification Creek and Four-Mile Creek.

Pete explained that the maps for the YRLSP should be done through a YRLSP process using MapItFast. If there needed to be a Plan "B" then we could use the system that he had used in DNM for leafy spurge mapping.

Dan asked if there was a problem with landowners of releasing this info to the public. . Tamara thought that the Group needs to work on this problem. Greg thought that this issue could be addressed in an Access Agreement which could include a Disclosure Agreement.

Ben wanted to make sure that the YRLSP mapping data could be downloaded into the CDA EDDs mapping system. Pete said that it could be easily transferred.

Pete explained that Routt and Moffat counties had sent their checks for payment for the MapItFast license to CO First. CO First will pay Agterra for the license which will be put in Pete's name. Pete needs to complete work on the Strider Form for the leafy spurge data collection. Greg said that MapItFast has a new and improved Strider Form. Pete asked Jesse if he could send the Moffat County "Strider" form to him so he could use it.

Pete thought that with the MapItFast License and the completion of the Strider Form that the YRLSP would be ready to map the leafy spurge infestations along the Yampa which were not completed last summer. There is an important piece that is lacking that is landowner permission. Barry obtained verbal agreements from landowners of parcels to be mapped from Hayden to Pebble Beach. There was discussion that this was not enough for the mapping. Pete thought that without permission we could map from the river. Ben explained that as the water goes down we would not be able to see over the banks to obtain the necessary data. (See above the Landowner Letter discussion regarding mapping). Tamara reiterated that this is a problem.

Pete said that he has been collecting the current biocontrol data from Routt and Moffat Counties, CPW, and the CDA Insectary in Palisade. He is missing at least three or four sites. Some of these are where CDA sent the beetles to the counties and there is no record of where they were released. Pete asked Greg if he could help with finding this data.

Task 19: Jesse and Jessica to see if they could find the leafy spurge map data from Tepee Draw and get it to Pete.

Task 20: Pete will work with Lynn, CO First, to complete the MapItFast license application and purchase

Task 21: Jesse will send the Moffat County Strider Form (MC's Leafy Spurge Data Form) to Pete.

Task 22: Pete and Ben will organize the Yampa leafy spurge mapping for this Spring and Summer.

Task 23: Greg to assist Pete is obtaining the missing beetle release site information.

Ninth Discussion: 2019 Goals and Do List

Ben explained why he had included the Draft 2019 Goals and Do List in the agenda for discussion: 1. It is important at the beginning of the year that the YRLSP review goals and 2. It is important to make sure that important initiatives are carried through from past years.

The Group reviewed the following Draft 2019 Goals and Do List and volunteers stepped up to be the responsible party: (See names behind each Goal)

1. Work with and assist University of WY Prof. Tiekela and Interns on the Research Grant (Tamara)
2. Complete mapping of 2018 leafy spurge treatment sites and upload to CDA EDDs Maps (Greg, Jesse, Pete) (Note: Emily Spencer said that DNM had uploaded DNM data to EDDs)
3. Complete mapping of existing beetle release sites (Pete)
4. Follow-up on 2018 Landowner Letter (John)
5. Complete website update (Ben, Cody)
6. Fund and complete 3rd treatment protocols: TePee Draw 15+/- acs and West of Hayden 115+/- acs (Jesse, Greg)
7. Continue Dinosaur National Monument leafy spurge mechanical removal (Emily)
8. Continue outreach presentations (Group)
9. Reports to supporting organizations: YWGRT (Tamara), FOTY Board (Ben), MC and RC BCC (Ray, Tim coordinate with Group), CDA (???) and the YRSLP (John)
10. Map the leafy spurge infestations in LYC and from West of Hayden to South Beach (Pete, Ben)
11. 2019 Show Me Float (overnight) June 21st (John)
12. Coordinate with the YWGRT Stream Management Planning (understanding of the leafy spurge infestations) (Tamara)
13. Decision on applying for a 2020 CDA WF Grant(s) (Group by 7/10)

Ben asked the Group to review this Draft Goals/Do List and get back to him with any changes/additions/deletions. Also, members should look at who is the volunteer for each Goal. Some Goals were not vouched for and names were added and maybe there are some Goals that you would like to be involved with. Ben will keep this list on the agendas.

Task 24: Group members will review 2019 Goals/Do List and get back to Ben with comments/changes.

Tenth Discussion:

Kendall Smith brought up the proposal of NRCS applying for another Targeted Conservation Project. He reminded the Group that the 2018 application for Moffat and Routt Counties was not funded. Kendall proposed that the 2019 application could be for leafy spurge management. He thought that with a partnership with the YRLSP that this application would be strong.

Clinton Whitten after having reviewed the earlier application said that this one should be more specific. He was really enthused that with the outreach of the YRLSP that landowners would be interested in partnering in individual Targeted Conservation Projects.

In the discussion, the Group was hesitant to get behind Kendall's TCPs due to the efforts that needed to be put into the Research Project this year. Tamara suggested that the YRLSP continue to partner with NRCS. In the outreach and follow-up with landowners we should direct the landowners who are interested in the management of leafy spurge outside of the research project to NRCS for assistance.

Task 25: John, in the follow-up landowner letter try and find a way to explain NRCS's interest in assisting landowners in the management of leafy spurge.

Task 26: The Group continue to discuss with NRCS an application for Targeted Conservation Projects for 2020.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Research Grant Meeting: Biocontrol and Engaging Youth: Tuesday February 5th at 10:00 CSU Extension Office, Craig

YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday March 13th at 10:00am at the Carpenter Ranch

Adjourned: 12:30pm

