

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT  
MEETING  
Wednesday 10:00am February 12, 2020  
Carpenter Ranch  
US 40 East of Hayden**

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions: Welcome: 5 minutes
2. Review Agenda: 5 minutes
3. Follow-up to Maybell Stakeholders Meeting: (Tamara) 10 minutes
  - a. Landowner permissions
  - b. Spring Maybell Ditch owners meeting
4. Activities for the Completion of CWCB Grant (Tamara, Pete) 25 minutes
  - a. Collection of leafy spurge beetles 6/30 thru 7/2
  - b. Leafy spurge infestation mapping, June/July
  - c. UnivWy completion of research on test plots
  - d. Landowner permissions for access and biocontrol
  - e. Education and Outreach with Youth, biocontrol
5. 2020 Show Me Float 6/19 and 6/20 (Ben) 10 minutes
  - a. List of invitees
6. Report on FOTY/YRLSP Donation Account Balance (Ben) 5 minutes
  - a. Thank You letters for donations
7. Discussion and Approval of 2020 YRLSP Goals (Ben) 15 minutes
8. Partner Plans and Updates for 2020 Leafy Spurge Management (Group) 15 minutes
  - a. Routt County Weed Program
  - b. Moffat County Weed and Pest Management
  - c. Colorado Parks and Wildlife
  - d. BLM
  - e. CO State Land Board
  - f. NRCS
  - g. Dinosaur Nat Monument
9. Funding Opportunities (Group) 10 minutes
  - a. CWCB grant for 2021 (Tamara)
  - b. RC Rangeland Improvement Funds (Tiffany, Ben)

10. Reports (Group) 15 minutes
- a. RC BCC meeting and MC BCC meeting updates (Tamara)
  - b. YRLSP website (Pete)
  - c. Presentation to CO First Conservation Dist, 2/18 ( Ben)

11. Other: 5 minutes

Next Scheduled Meeting:

**YRLSP Regular Meeting:** April 8th at the Carpenter Ranch

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

Meeting Packet:

Proposed Agenda  
Draft YRLSP 2020 Goals

# **YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT**

**Wednesday, February 12, 2020  
Carpenter Ranch, East of Hayden, CO  
Final Meeting Notes**

## **ATTENDEES:**

### **Working Group Members Present**

Ray Beck, Moffat County Commissioner  
Ben Beall, Routt County Citizen  
Tamara Naumann, Moffat County Citizen  
Pete Williams, Moffat County Citizen  
Lindsey Marlow, the Friends of the Yampa  
Tiffany Carlson, Routt County Weed Program  
Baili Foster, NRCS Steamboat Springs  
Tyler Jacox, CO Parks and Wildlife

### **Guests and Interested Parties:**

Teresa Audesirk, Routt County Citizen

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 10:05. The Group with new attendees introduced themselves.

Ben asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

Lindsey Marlow asked if she could add a Discussion regarding The Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable project of developing an Integrated Water Management Plan. Ben suggested that this discussion become Item 9.

Ben asked if he could add an item regarding the Carpenter Ranch's need for a new Conditional Use Permit before the Routt County Planning Commission. Ben suggested that this item be discussed under Item 10 Other.

The Group accepted these additions to the agenda.

### **First Discussion: Follow-up to Maybell Stakeholders Meeting**

Tamara Naumann reported that 175 invitations were sent out to: Maybell Ditch owners, landowners along the Yampa from Duffy Mt. to Cross Mt (the river reach to be mapped this summer), and attendees at the 2019 April landowners meeting in Craig.

There were 32 or 33 attendees which included members of the YRLSP. Tamara expressed frustration at the small local turnout from Maybell but from experience “neighbors will talk to neighbors” and she is confident that the word will get out.

Tamara thanked Moffat County Weed and Pest for supplying the food, NRCS for paying the rental for the Elementary School and cost for the mailing, BLM for printing costs, and Dinosaur National Monument for the plates and silverware.

Tamara has talked to Mike Camblin, Maybell Ditch President, about attending the Spring Ditch Meeting to discuss the YRLSP Summer mapping plans and obtain permission for mapping.

**Task 1: Tamara to contact Mike Camblin regarding the Spring Maybell Ditch meeting so that the YRLSP can outreach to the ditch owners.**

## **Second Discussion: Activities for Completion of CWCB Grant**

a. Collection of Leafy Spurge Beetles: Tamara has scheduled with John Kaltenbach, CDA, to collect beetles on the Front Range on June 30<sup>th</sup>. She said that we will need 4-5 volunteers. The schedule: leave 6/29, collection 6/30, processing 7/1, and return/release 7/2 and 7/3. Volunteers: Tamara, Ben, and Teresa Audesirk. Tiffany Carlson will check with the Master Gardeners to see if anyone would like to volunteer. Tamara stated that there was no budget for the trip or overnight accommodations. Ben thought that we could use funds from the FOTY/YRLSP Donations Account.

b. CPW Purchase and Release of Beetles: Tyler Jacox discussed the CPW budget for \$500 to purchase beetles from Wyoming. He will also need volunteers to assist with the release which will need to be on the YRSWA because it is CPW funds. Tyler also showed the metal signs created and paid for by CPW to be posted on YRLSP beetle release sites. These signs will hopefully delineate the release sites and not be sprayed with herbicides in the future. Ben recommended that an item be placed on the June agenda for organizing the beetle releases.

c. Leafy Spurge Mapping: The mapping will take place in June/July from Duffy Mt. to Cross Mt. The timing will depend on the height of the river. Pete Williams reported that the MapItFast app used for the mapping annual subscription is coming due in March and the \$500 cost will be paid out of the CWCB Grant. Ray Beck suggested that the Permission Forms be sent to Moffat County Weed and Pest and Routt County Weed Program so that they could assist with the permissions. Pete said that the 2020 Permission Forms are on the website and can be downloaded. Baili Foster asked Ben if he would email her the Routt County landowners who denied permissions in 2019. She may be able to help get them on board.

d. Discussion of Recent Presentations: Tamara reported that she thought the CWCB updates to the Routt County and the Moffat County Boards of County Commissioners went well. She said that she had followed up with an email to RC Commissioner Doug Monger to a question concerning where the funds were being used. Ray said that he thought the MC Commissioners appreciated the update. Tamara

thanked Ray for the \$1,500 over and above the \$15,000 that MC contributed for match for the CWCB Grant. There was a discussion with Ray of where the \$1,500 could be used. It was agreed that the funds could be used for beetles and research, which might include expenses for the collection trip to the Front Range. Ray thought that a report on the funding would be appropriate. Ray also recommended that the YRLSP make a presentation to the MC Cattlemen.

e. Univ WY Contribution to CWCB Grant: Tamara reported that she has not received the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Invoice from UWY but expects it soon. Hannah Kuhns will visit the research sites this summer to collect data. Tamara suggested that we may not be able to make a recommendation on the research with only two years of data. Ben thought that, with the YRLSP completing a \$100,000-plus CWCB Grant, a Report to the Community of our findings was necessary. Tamara said that after only two years findings would only be “preliminary.” If we are to make a report it would only be in 2021 after the data analysis, and the findings may be different after 5 years.

f. Education and Outreach with Youth and Biocontrol: Tamara plans to work with the Boys and Girls Club again this summer with leafy spurge beetles. She hopes to be assisted again by Chris Rhyne (BLM), Todd Hagenbuch (CSU Ext RC), Jessica Counts (CSU Ext MC), Tyler Jacox (CPW) and the Master Gardeners. She is in the process of purchasing long-sleeve T-shirts for the kids as part of the Grant. She asked the Group members if they would like a shirt. The cost would be \$20.

**Task 2: Tamara to continue to organize the Front Range Beetle Collection project and keep the volunteers informed.**

**Task 3: Tiffany to check with the Master Gardeners to see if there are volunteers for the release of the leafy spurge beetles from the Front Range and on the CPW YRSWA.**

**Task 4: Ben to place an item on the April meeting agenda to complete the organization for the Front Range Collection Trip and the Beetle Releases.**

**Task 5: Ben to get the names of the landowners who did not give permission for the 2019 mapping to Baili so she can assist with these landowners if the chance arises.**

**Task 6: Tamara to keep track of where the \$1,500 donation from MC is spent and add that to the next MC Board of County Commissioner update.**

**Task 7: Ray to advise John Husband when the MC Cattlemen are to meet.**

**Third Discussion: Update on the 2020 Show Me Float:**

Ben reported that John Husband had sent him the invitation list to the canceled 2019 Show Me Float. This will be the basis for the invitees for the 2020 Float. Ben asked the

Group to get him their recommendations for invitees. The Float will take place June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in Little Yampa Canyon.

**Task 8: Ben and John will report to the Group at the April meeting on the plans for the Show Me Float**

**Fourth Discussion: Report on FOTY/YRLSP Donation Account Balance:**

Ben reported that he had met with Greg Henion, FOTY Treasurer, and agreed on the past accounting and account balance. The balance as of February 5, 2020 was \$498. Tamara says that she knows of another donation and recommended that the \$1,500 from MC be considered a donation for the FOTY/YRLSP account. Ben also reported that he and Greg had also agreed that, to simplify and streamline the accounting process, Lindsey Marlow, FOTY staff, becomes the focal point for the YRLSP request for funding. Lindsey said that she had talked with Greg and agreed that she become the focal point. She said that she is not taking over the accounting but will continue to update Greg. She will give the YRLSP a monthly donations report.

There was a Group discussion on two donations that caused some problems but Lindsey working with Tamara has and/or will straighten out: 1. The NRCS payment for the Maybell expenses. Admin fee cleared up in the February 5, 2020 account balance. 2. The \$7,500 RC match for the CWCB Grant. This is just a pass-through since the CWCB Grant is paying 5% admin fee to FOTY as the fiscal agent.

Lindsey volunteered to send out one thank you letter for future donations received from both FOTY and the YRLSP. Ben said that he would email Lindsey the YRLSP thank-you template.

**Task 9: Lindsey will send out a monthly update on the FOTY/YRLSP Donations Account.**

**Task 10: Ben to email Lindsey the YRLSP thank-you letter template.**

**Fifth Discussion: Discussion and Approval of 2020 YRLSP Goals**

Ben presented the Group with the Draft 2020 YRLSP Goals with changes from the December 11, 2019 meeting. He said that he hoped that the YRLSP would be as successful with the 2020 goals and we were with the 2019 goals.

The Group suggested the following changes and additions:

Goal 4 to read: Obtain enough leafy spurge beetles to release the beetles to 12 new sites.

In Goal 10: TePee Draw to be spelled correctly as Tepee Draw.

Goal 13 to read: Reports to supporting organizations of the accomplishments for 2020: YWGRT (Tamara), FOTY Board (Ben), MC and RC BCC (Ray, Tim coordinate, Group), CO First Con Dist (Ben, John), and the YRSLP (John)

Goal 16: Change "...apply for a new CWCB Grant for 2021." To ....apply for a new CWCB Grant in 2021.

Add Goal 18: Organize a Biocontrol Field Trip for interested partners and landowners.

See Approved YRLSP 2020 Goals on the YRLSP website  
yampariverleafyspurgeproject.com

**Task 11: Ben to make changes and finalize the YRLP 2020 Goals and send to Pete to upload to the YRLSP website.**

### **Fifth Discussion: Partner Plans and Updates for 2020 Leafy Spurge Management:**

Ben told the Group that he put this item on the agenda so that the YRLSP Working Group Members could get a picture of leafy spurge management in Northwest Colorado from all the agencies who work with leafy spurge. He suggested that this be a standard item on future agendas.

1. Routt County Weed Program: Tiffany said that RC would continue to concentrate on road ROWs. She plans to increase public outreach especially to private landowners.

She suggested that the YRLSP brochures be made available for the Community Ag Alliance meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Tamara also suggested the beetle fact sheet be made available.

Tiffany thought that there is room to improve RC's mapping of leafy spurge i.e. specific site info and photo points. Pete suggested that all the info be uploaded to Colorado EDDs Maps, which is supposed to be where all this info should reside. This hasn't happened in the past. Tamara said that it would be smart to upload to EDDs Maps. Tiffany and Pete talked about sharing the YRLSP Strider data collection file used for the mapping.

Ben asked what are the plans for the infestation on the Stetson property near Stagecoach Res. Tiffany thought that treatment would be worked out with Stetson's daughter in 2020 as per the RC BCC agreement.

2. CPW: Tyler reiterated the plan to purchase \$500 of beetles from Montana (See Second Discussion). He would like to beetles on Earle's property, the oxbow in the

flood plain. CPW will also be contracting with Osborn for treatment on the SWA. Pete stated that he would like to map the areas of the SWA farther from the river, which were not mapped in 2019.

Tyler said that CPW has purchased a 10-ft raft that could be used for mapping.

Tyler suggested that Ben talk to Jacob Dewhirst, Yampa River State Park, to get his involvement.

3. BLM: Tamara said that BLM would be monitoring beetles on their parcel above Tepee Draw and assist with the monitoring of the CWCB test site on Four Mile. BLM has agreed to continue helping with the Youth Engagement part of the CWCB Grant.

4. NRCS: Baili reported that in the new Farm Bill that EQIP funding continues. There may be some changes which will be communicated to landowners. There is a RC Conservation Dist landowner meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Steamboat Springs Community Center.

5. Dinosaur National Monument: Ben had received an email from Emily Spencer. The DNM leafy spurge mechanical removal trips (hand pulling) will be: 1<sup>st</sup> May 29-June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June 26-July 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> trip Emily plans to perform a biocontrol survey to see if beetles have migrated to DNM.

The Group suggested that in the future FOTY, RC Extension, and MC Extension be added.

**Task 12: Tiffany to talk to Patrick Stanko to see if the YRLSP brochures, fact sheet and beetle sheet can be made available of the Ag Alliance meeting.**

**Task 13: Ben to talk with Jacob Dewhirst, YRSP.**

**Task 14: Ben to add FOTY and the RC/MC CSU Extensions to the Partner Update agenda item.**

### **Sixth Discussion: Yampa River Fund Riparian Habitat Restoration Grant**

Lindsey reported that the first annual grant from the Yampa River Fund was available. The goal of the Fund founded by The Nature Conservancy, FOTY, and the City of Steamboat Springs is to have an endowment of \$4.75 million which there would be \$200,000 available each year for grants. The three anticipated objectives for the grants are: leases for in-stream-flows, riparian habitat restoration, and multi-jurisdictional river projects.

This year, the first year there will only be available for granting about \$150,000. In the future there will be two annual grant cycles: Summer will be for water leasing and a fall



cycle for projects. Lindsey thought that the YRLSP would be able to submit grants for riparian habitat restoration.

Tamara agreed that this is an attractive multi-year funding source for the YRLSP due to the negative effects of leafy spurge to the riparian habitat and herbicides to water quality. However, she thought that the YRLSP was not ready to participate this year maybe in 2021. Maybe in the future the YRLSP could apply for funds to monitor and collect data from specific sites. The YRLSP not being a 501C3 would have to have FOTY be the fiscal agent.

### **Task 15: Group to pursue a possible application for funding from the Yampa Water Fund for 2021.**

#### **Seventh Discussion: Other Funding Opportunities**

1. Tamara related to the Group that even though applying for a CWCB follow-up grant to the existing CWCB grant for 2021 had been discussed she did not think that the YRLSP had a project that we could apply for until the data from site tests and biocontrol monitoring are be completed. She recommended that the Group decide during 2020 what would be the goal of a follow-up CWCB Grant and possibly apply in 2021.

2. Tiffany relayed to the Group that application from RC's Rangeland Improvement Taylor Grazing Act Funds was due March 9<sup>th</sup> to the RC Weed Board.

Ben suggested that the YRLSP apply for funding to monitor the West of Hayden 115acs +/- leafy spurge infestations sprayed in 2016 (CDA funds) and in 2017 and 2019 with RC Rangeland Improvement Funds. He said that he had talked with Don Stinton at Greg Brown's retirement party and that Don even though busy would be available.

Tiffany read the application of the YRLSP to the Weed Board for Rangeland Improvement Funds for the treatments in 2017 and 2019 on West of Hayden which stated that acres sprayed would be monitored.

There was a Group discussion regarding the lack of information and monitoring on West of Hayden. Ben explained that Don Stinton had sprayed with assistance and supervision of Barry Castagnasso and that Greg Brown had only been involved in the contracting. Tamara stated that the required monitoring didn't happen probably because the YRLSP committed other people to do it. She said that we don't know what went on out there. We don't even know what chemicals were sprayed. Ben thought that there was a file in the RC Weed Program's system. Tiffany said that she has looked but hasn't found much information. Tyler said that Don is pretty closed mouthed regarding his mixtures but what he has done on the SWA has worked.

Ben thinks that Barry has some photos of the areas sprayed and that we could use Barry and Don's there years of history with West of Hayden to be able to monitor these infestations. Baili said that NRCS has been able to monitor after the fact using certain

protocols. Ben thought it important that the YRLSP try to monitor the West of Hayden infestations. There was no consensus from the Group on how or whether to proceed.

**Task 16: The Group to discuss during 2020 an application to CWCB in 2021.**

**Task 17: Tyler to talk with Barry Castagnasso.**

**Task 18: Ben to further discuss with the Group the issue of monitoring the West of Hayden 115acs.**

### **Eight Discussion: Other Reports**

1. Website: Pete reported that the YRLSP had had 260 visitors to the website and 86 unique visitors in the previous three months. He thought that this was significant and showed an interest in the YRLSP.

2. Presentation to Colorado First Conservation District on 2/18: Ben reported that he had talked to Lynn Haskins since John Husband was to be out of town. Ben said that he would attend and make a presentation for the YRLSP. John had written a two page update for a handout. Along with this Ben thought that he should make copies of the brochure and Permission Form for handouts. He asked the Group if he could pay for these out of the FOTY/YRLSP Donations Account. Tamara said that BLM would make copies and it would be match for the CWCB Grant.

2. Carpenter Ranch: Ben reported that RC Planning Commission was reviewing TNC/Carpenter Ranch's Conditional Use permit. There was some urgency due to the fact that there were complaints from an adjacent landowner which could close down the Carpenter Ranch to public use. He asked that everyone send an email to RC Planning Director stating the importance of the Carpenter Ranch to Northwest Colorado. He will send out an email with talking points so that the Group Members could support the Carpenter Ranch.

**Task 19: Ben to contact Chris Rhyne to see if BLM could make copies of the handouts for the CO First meeting on 2/18.**

**Task 20: Ben to send an email to the Group regarding the review of the Carpenter Ranch's Conditional Use Permit.**

**Next Scheduled Meeting:**

**YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday April 8th at 10:00am at the Carpenter Ranch**

Adjourned: 12:45pm