

Remove Invasives: Colorado River  
Multipark Climate Resilience,  
Restoration, and Response  
(AKA **Inundative Biocontrol Strategy  
for Yampa and Green Watersheds**)

A National Park Service project funded through the 2022 Inflation  
Reduction Act

# What this project IS

- Solid financial support/seed money for this partnership to effectively and efficiently deploy as many biocontrol agents as feasible in the Yampa and Green watersheds, regardless of land ownership, for long-term management of highly invasive riparian plants, with a focus on leafy spurge and Russian knapweed.
- We will do this by building on the research, relationships, expertise, capacity, and foundation this group has accomplished over the last 10 years.

# What this project IS

- GOAL: Annual release of 50-100K insects.
- Establish our own “insectaries” in NW CO/NE UT for collections/distributions.

# Budget Timeline

- **TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$539,674.00**
- Implementation: 2024 (now!) through September 30, 2030.
- Project funding: 2024-2026
  - Most of the funding distributed in 2024-2025 through agreements with non-federal partners (FOTY & CDA).
  - Remaining funds distributed to DINO in 2026 for seasonal staffing costs.
- Project funding: 2027-2030
  - Partners “hold/bank” funding for project components & make available over life of project.

# Project Budget: NPS (DINO)

- NPS
  - Seasonal personnel (GS-7 river ranger; 2024-2026): \$81K
  - 12-week intern (2025-2026): \$28,250
  - Travel/transportation costs for NPS staff: \$33,300
  - Supplies (insect collection/storage, PPE): \$18,725
  - Equipment (raft, trailer, data collection): \$29,700

# Project Budget (Cooperators)

- Colorado Department of Agriculture: \$48,200
  - Direct purchase of Russian knapweed and leafy spurge biocontrol agents over 7 years @~\$6885/year.
  - These insects can go *anywhere* landowner permission/agreement is in place.
  - Agreement to be executed in 2024.
  - Can help with landowner outreach in Routt/Moffat/Rio Blanco counties who have participated in Request A Bug program to let them know of this opportunity to receive bugs for free.

# Project Budget (Cooperators)

- Friends of the Yampa: \$296,999.00
  - Mileage (private vehicle only)/per diem reimbursement for project participants over 7 years for bug collection & releases: \$93,149
  - Overhead/administration of project funds over 7 years: \$48,000
    - \$6857/year for tracking & reporting expenditures to NPS
    - FOTY/YRLSP succession activities (Ben and Emily provide more info on this)
  - Direct purchase of insects from commercial sources: \$23,850
  - Seasonal employee hire for continued project implementation 2027-2030: \$132,000
    - GS-7 equivalent in partnership with DINO; includes travel costs for employee
  - Agreement to be executed in 2024.

# Dedicated Project Staffing

- 1 GS-7 seasonal employee for ~26 weeks (mid-April through end of September); 2024-2030; supervisor: Emily Spencer
  - \*Occasional bonus help from other DINO seasonal when available/needed
- 1 intern from an NPS Intern programs for 12 weeks; 2025-2026; supervised by Emily
- Me 😊 , provided in-kind by DINO, though some of my travel is paid for by grant.



# Project Deliverables

- Reported annually (by September 1)
- Acres treated with biocontrols
- Youth Engagement (training/mentorship/volunteerism)
- Communications (# of the following)
  - Public communications packages produced
  - Social media postings
  - News releases
  - News media contacts
  - Website pages that mention project
  - Coordination meetings with other agencies conducting work
  - Public meetings/partner coordination for communication
  - Briefings/reports/memos

# Help Wanted!

- Insect collection!
  - Travel is paid by grant! (Ashton, ID, CO Front Range, NW CO/NE UT)
- Landowner access
- Monitoring & Mapping
  - When? Where? What protocol?
- 2024 work plan development for project seasonal
  - DINO seasonal available for any and all projects you have related to biocontrol in the Yampa/Green River basin: mapping, releases, collections, monitoring education/outreach events, Show Me Float...

# Biocontrol Permits

- All insects for Russian knapweed & leafy spurge collected in CO and released in CO = Letter of no permit (released under CDA Insectary's permit).
- Leafy spurge insects collected in ID and released in CO = Letter of no permit (released under CDA Insectary's permit).
- All insects for Russian knapweed and leafy spurge collected in CO or ID and released in UT = need to find someone in UT with a permit to operate under. CDA Insectary helping with this.
- CDA Insectary will provide a copy of their permit and/or a letter of no permit for our documentation.

# What else?

- Boring but important: compliance (feds: NEPA/Section 106)

# January 22 Agenda

1. Review detailed project budget & goals
2. Initial supplies to order
  - Cups, mesh, aspirators/filters, collection bags (pillowcases), accelerator, nets, tables, sun shelter. Also monitoring supplies.
3. Partner thoughts on how/when they would like to participate in this project?
4. Idaho leafy spurge collection - initial interest in participating; first 2 weeks of July is reserved for trip to ID.
5. 2024 work plan development - how when and where can dedicated project staff (Dinosaur NM) assist with mapping, releases, collections, education/outreach events
  - I have requested A LOT of Aulacidea (Russian knapweed gall wasp) releases from the insectary for mid-May through Mid-June. Looking for release sites in addition to Dinosaur NM.
  - Invitation to join a release in Dinosaur if interested.
6. Compliance needs for federal agencies
7. Monitoring - what is realistic this year? What monitoring goals/objectives does YRLSP want to see for future years? E.g. Establishment? Measuring native/desirable vegetation response?
8. Annual budget/project tracking and reporting
9. Show Me Float date? June 14 tentative, alternate June 28th
10. Monitoring Class date: Tentative June 6th, alternate is June 13th (late morning/early afternoon) at Frog Pond (mm 100, near closed rest area)