

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT  
SCHEDULED MEETING  
Wednesday 10:00 December 9, 2020  
By Zoom Video Conference

Proposed Agenda

1. Welcome: Ben (5 minutes)
2. Introductions: (5 minutes)
3. Review Agenda: (5 minutes)
4. CWCB Grant Update: Tamara (15 minutes)
  - a. 6 month report
  - a. Integrated Management Test Plots Report
  - b. Leafy Spurge Satellite Imagery Identification: Chloe
  - c. Timeline for completion
5. YRLSP Website Update: Pete (10 minutes)
6. Review Goals and Accomplishments 2020: Group (15 minutes)
7. Set Goals for 2021: Group (30 minutes)
8. Confirm 2021 Calendar of Events: Group (15 minutes)
  - a. Front Range Beetle Collection and Site Releases June 14<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup> (Tamara)  
Other Possible Releases:
    1. Little Yampa Canyon Release (Chris)
    2. J Quarter Circle Ranch (Ben, Baili, Tamara)
    3. Dinosaur National Monument (Emily)
  - b. CWCB Youth Outreach First couple weeks in July (Tamara)
  - c. Show Me Float LYC June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> (John, Ben)
  - d. Complete Leafy Spurge Mapping June 28<sup>th</sup> thru July 2<sup>nd</sup> (Pete, Ben)
  - e. Land Owner Access Permissions February (John, Tamara, Pete, Geoff)
  - f. Land Owner Field Trip TBD (Tamara, Jesse, Tiffany)
  - g. DNM Leafy Spurge Hand Pulling and Mapping #1 May 24<sup>th</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup> and #2 June 28<sup>th</sup> thru July 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - h. Other events
9. Partner Plans and Updates for 2020 Leafy Spurge Management: Group (15 minutes)
  - a. CWCB Grant
  - b. Friends of the Yampa Donations Account
  - c. Routt County Weed Program
  - d. Moffat County Weed and Pest Management
  - e. Colorado Parks and Wildlife

- f. Yampa River State Park
- g. BLM
- h. CO State Land Board
- i. NRCS
- j. Dinosaur Nat Monument
- k. MC CSU Extension
- i. RC CSU Extension

10. Other (Group) 5 minutes

Next Scheduled Meeting:

YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at the Carpenter Ranch or By Zoom

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

Meeting Packet:

Proposed Agenda

YRLSP Goals and Accomplishments for 2020

Draft Goals for 2021

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT  
Wednesday, December 9, 2020  
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Final Meeting Notes

ATTENDEES:

Working Group Members Present

Ben Beall, Routt County Citizen  
Tamara Naumann, Moffat County Citizen  
Pete Williams, Moffat County Citizen  
Geoff Blakeslee, Routt County Citizen  
John Husband, Moffat County Citizen  
Emily Spenser, Dinosaur National Monument  
Baili Foster, NRCS  
Chris Rhyne, BLM  
Lindsey Marlow, FOTY

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 10:05. He thanked everyone for participating. He announced that he would be recording the meeting.

Ben reported that he had heard from Tiffany Carlson and Todd Hagenbuch who said that for various reasons they could not participate today. Since everyone knew each other he dispensed with introductions.

Ben asked if there were any questions about, additions, or changes to the agenda that had been shared by email. Ben advised the Group that this agenda was basically an end of the year with a review of Goals and Accomplishments for 2020 and setting Goals for 2021.

First Discussion: CWCB Grant Update

Tamara Naumann reported that Dan Tekiela will be leaving the U Wyo in January and is going to follow a private opportunity due to lack of tenure and university Covid-19 issues. His leaving, even though bad news, should not affect the research of the grad students working on the grant.

Hannah, who just won an award for best presentation, is finishing up her research on her integrated management sites, which should be finished early next summer. Tamara reported that Hannah's work hasn't shown a good conclusion about working with sheep, but it seems that the herbicides Quinclorac and Rinskor do make a difference in riparian areas. However, at this moment Rinskor is not labeled for use in riparian areas. Another part of Hannah's research that is informative regards leafy spurge on sandbars. She looked at leafy spurge roots that are washed off of sandbars to see if they could reroot downstream and the answer is yes. This is important

because we have been attempting to reduce seed flow and now we know there is this other means of spread.

Chloe has finished with a lot of the technical work on her research. She has been able to obtain a good signal of leafy spurge from her satellite data, with a potential accuracy of over 90%. She would like us to check the accuracy of some of her polygons. Tamara told her that we can do that. It would be similar to our leafy spurge mapping project. One exciting part is that Chloe seems to be able to pick up a leafy spurge signal from sites that are sparsely populated but with occasional large clumps. These sites may be similar to the condition of sites where biocontrol is present.

Tamara finished the CWCB six-month report on November 19<sup>th</sup> and it will be posted on our website. One of the challenges with the Grant has been working with the U Wyo accountants. Hopefully, after an audit, all the anomalies with their invoicing have been worked out. She filed for an extension to the original December 31, 2021 deadline, due to CWCB Covid-19 guidelines. She expects to be working with the new CWCB staff, Ben Wade, to finalize this extension.

Ben asked Tamara about Hannah's sheep research. He stated that he has read where sheep are rotated on Montana ranches and they have been able to manage leafy spurge. Tamara used the Peroulis Ranch as an example for Northwest Colorado. Peroulis, like many other Yampa Valley ranches, used to run sheep. But when the Peroulis Ranch changed to cattle the leafy spurge exploded. Tamara thought that we could learn from Jesse Schroeder's work with Peroulis to study the benefits of Quinclorac and Rinskor. What Hannah's research really shows is that rotating sheep on a small scale just isn't efficient.

Geoff Blakeslee suggested that Tamara work with Jackie Brown, CWCB Board member if she has any problems with working with the new staff.

Task 1: Tamara and Group to groundtruth Chloe's leafy spurge polygons next summer.

Task 2: Tamara to complete the CWCB Grant Extension.

Task 3: Jesse to report to the Group regarding his work with Peroulis on the use of Quinclorac and Rinskor.

### Second Discussion: YRLSP Website Update

Pete Williams reported that since the last meeting he worked on creating a video version of Chris Rhyne's PowerPoint Presentation on Tepee Draw. It is now on the website under the Projects Menu. He was able to shorten all the Group comments and coordinate these with Chris' slides to create a 15½ minute presentation.

Tamara thought that the presentation came out well.

Pete reported to the Group on the public's use of the website:

Last 90days	98 site visits	61 unique visitors	285 page views
Last 30 days	30 site visits	19 unique visitors	89 page views
Last 7 days	4 site visits	3 unique visitors	24 page views

He thought that this use showed the value of the site. First, the numbers of unique views, and second, the numbers of page views show that visitors finding and then moving around the site. The average session time was 9 minutes.

Pete said that he will be making another revision to the site as soon as he gets the research reports from Chloe and Hannah with all their data and mapping.

Ben complimented Pete on the site. He observed that had questions about the biocontrol project he had gone to the site and found information on all the past and present releases, which showed the extent of the biocontrol in our project area.

Tamara related that she will be able to use this information on the past and present biocontrol when she works out where it would be best to have biocontrol releases this summer.

Pete said that he has asked for comments on the site and has received none. He thinks it important that the site provides an answer to the question “What is the YRSP accomplishing?” He believes that the answer should be readily found within our Projects Menu. He again asked the Group that if we see something missing, please give him your feedback.

Task 4: Group members to review website and get comments back to Pete.

Task 5: Pete to place Chloe’s and Hannah’s research and findings on website.

### Third Discussion: 2020 Goals and Accomplishments

Ben shared on the screen the Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project 2020 Goals and Accomplishments. He reminded the Group that he thought it is important to set goals every year. He suggested that we review each of the 2020 Goals and Accomplishments.

Below are the YRLSP 2020 Goals and Accomplishments, followed by the Group discussion.

Notes:

- 1) Changes that were suggested during the Group discussion have been incorporated into the following list 2020 Goals and Accomplishments items.
- 2) Asterisks (\*) denote CWCB Grant project postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus.
- 3) Xs denote completed projects.

### YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT 2020 GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- \*1. Continue to work on the CWCB Grant in coordination with University of WY Plant Science Department (Group and UWY Grad Students, Hannah, Chloe)

2. Complete mapping of Yampa River leafy spurge infestations from Duffy Mt. to Cross Mt. (Pete, Ben) Note: The 2020 mapping missed 5 miles in Axial Basin just above Juniper Campsite.
- X 3. Three additional legacy biocontrol sites were visited and monitored in 2020 (BLM Tepee, Camilletti and Mack). This brings the total number of monitored legacy sites to 24 (of 42 sites identified from historical records). All legacy sites near the Yampa River corridor have now been revisited and monitored. Remaining legacy sites are low priority due to location and/or difficulty in contacting landowners or gaining access permission. (Tamara, Group)
- X 4. The 2020 goal was originally to obtain 6,000 beetles to be released on 6 sites. Ultimately in 2020 there were 23,000 leafy spurge beetles released at multiple new sites including: 10,000 (10 sites on Earle property), 1,000 (1 BLM site along Fortification Creek), 2,000 (2 sites on MacIntyre property), and 10,000 (6 sites on the YRSWA). (Tyler/CPW/Group)
- \*5. Continue the Education and Outreach with Youth in Northwest Colorado on biocontrol as part of the CWCB Grant (Tamara, Chris, Jessica, Tyler)
6. Discuss the creation of a new Leafy Spurge Integrated Management Plan (Group)
- X 7. Hold stakeholder meeting with Western Moffat County landowners and the Maybell Ditch owners. (Tamara, Kendall, John)
- X 8. Follow-up with 2019 stakeholder and mapping partners. (John)
- X 9. Continue the updating of the YRLSP website. (Pete)
- X 10. Monitor for results of the third chemical treatment sites of Tepee Draw (15+/- acres) and West of Hayden (115+/- acres) (Jesse, Chris, Tiffany, Ben, Baili)
- X 11. Continue Dinosaur National Monument leafy spurge mechanical removal and research on potential biocontrol releases (Emily)
- X 12. Continue outreach presentations (Group)
13. Reports to supporting organizations
  - Accomplished:
    - YWGRT (Tamara)
    - FOTY Board (Ben)
    - Moffat County and Routt County BCC (Ray, Tim coordinate, Group)
    - Colorado First Conservation Dist. (Ben)
  - Not yet accomplished:
    - CDA (Ben)
    - YRSLP (John)

## IWMP (Tamara)

- \*14. Organize the 2020 Show Me Float June 19th and 20th (John, Ben)
- X 15. Coordinate with the YWGRT Stream Management Planning to include leafy spurge (Tamara)
- 16. Find out application due date, coordinate with the YWGRT and apply for a new CWCB Grant for 2021. (Tamara)
- 17. Research new funding sources. (Ben)

### Discussion:

Goal #4: Tamara thought that we should highlight how we had exceeded our Goal on the number of beetles released and the number of sites. She wants to note that this was possible because of Tyler Jacox's ability to get CPW funding to buy 10,000 beetles from Montana and the lucky timing of our collection trip to the Front Range.

Goal #12: There was a question about whether we accomplished this Goal. John Husband thought we did. In the discussion Tamara pointed out that we had made outreach presentations to Maybell Ditch Owners and the IWMP. In the discussion of the IWMP Tamara said that she seems to not be getting notices from the IWMP. She asked Geoff Blakeslee if he would step in and be the contact person. Geoff said that he would contact Nicole Seltzer.

Baili Foster wanted to know what other organizations we had made presentations to in the past. These were the organizations discussed: Interested landowners in Craig in 2019 (John, Tamara), RC and MC Commissioners multiple times (Tamara), FOTY River Fest in 2017, 2018, and 2019 (Ben), and RC Weed Board in 2018, 2019, and 2020 (Ben).

Baili said that she would keep in touch with landowners who had expressed interest in the YRLSP. Ben suggested that she give him their email addresses so that they can get on our email list for updates and information

Goal #16: Tamara pointed out that with Covid-19 that it just hasn't been an opportune time to apply for new CWCB funding. Maybe in the future if there is a need for additional funding another application to CWCB might be worthwhile.

Goal #17: Ben said that he had not followed through on this goal. He wanted to point out that Tamara had taken the initiative to send out requests for donations during Colorado Gives in 2019 and we had received a significant number of donations in 2019 and 2020. Lindsey Marlow had advised Ben that in this year's CO Gives there had been additional donations made through FOTY for the YRLSP.

Task 6: Tamara to add information regarding the total number of biocontrol release sites visited to Goal #3.

Task 7: Tamara to revise Goal #4 to show that in 2020 we had exceeded our original goal of releasing 6,000 beetles on 6 sites.

Task 8: Geoff to be in touch with Nicole Seltzer to make sure that the YRLSP is kept in the loop in regards to the IWMP and become the contact person.

#### Fourth Discussion: Draft Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project 2021 Goals

Ben related to the Group that he had put together a Draft 2021 Goals. He told the Group that he was screen sharing this Draft. He would like to review this Draft and revise. He said that we will review the Draft created today and any other changes at the February meeting.

Below is the Draft 2021 Goals that was discussed, with changes suggested during the discussion incorporated. Discussion notes follow the draft list of goals.

#### DRAFT YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT 2021 GOALS

1. Complete CWCB Grant in coordination with University of Wyo Plant Science Department (Group, UWY Grad Students Hannah and Chloe)
2. Work collaboratively with CSU Extension, BLM, CPW and NRCS to organize a Youth education field event June 29-July 1 that focuses on leafy spurge and biocontrol. (Tamara, Chris, Jessica, Tyler, Baili)
3. Complete mapping of Yampa River leafy spurge infestations: 5 miles in Axial Basin above Juniper Campsite, plus Cross Mt. Canyon and Cross Mt to Deerlodge. (Pete, Ben)
4. Complete an accuracy assessment of Chloe's leafy spurge satellite identification data (Pete, Tamara, Ben)
5. Continue the outreach to landowners in Routt and Moffat counties to educate and get their permissions for mapping and leafy spurge beetle releases. (Tiffany, Jesse, Baili, Group)
6. Obtain at least 10,000 biocontrol insects in collaboration with CDA Palisade Insectary staff and release on 10 new sites in priority areas. If more insects are available, they will be distributed to additional sites. Distribution will be determined with priority given to sites that support the objective of boosting biocontrol insect populations throughout the entire Yampa River corridor, with emphasis in 2020 on Little Yampa Canyon, Axial Basin and Dinosaur National Monument. (Biocontrol volunteer group, John Kaltenbach)
7. Biocontrol outreach event. Collaborate with NRCS and county weed staff to organize a field tour of biocontrol sites for private landowners in July. (Tamara, Bali, Tiffany, Jesse, Kendall, Group)

8. Continue the updating of the YRLSP website (Pete)
9. Moffat County Weed and Pest to monitor the treatments on the Peroulis property on Four Mile Creek, and to report on the success of the different chemical treatments used. (Jesse)
10. Routt County Weed Program to continue to monitor the management of the leafy spurge infestation on Iron Springs Ranch near Stagecoach Reservoir. (Tiffany, Todd)
11. Continue Dinosaur National Monument leafy spurge mechanical removal and mapping of the leafy spurge infestations. (Emily)
12. Continue to work with and support partners in their implementation of integrated leafy spurge management strategies. (Jesse, Chris, Tiffany, Baili)
13. Organize the 2021 Show Me Float in Little Yampa Canyon for June 25th and 26<sup>th</sup>. (John, Ben)
14. Reports to supporting organizations: YWGRT (Tamara), FOTY Board and Yampa River Fest (Ben), MC and RC BCC (Tim coordinate, Group), CDA (Ben), CO First Conservation Dist (Ben, John), IWMP (Geoff) and the YRSLP (John)
15. Create a Five Year YRLSP Report with identifiable future projects and funding sources. (Ben, Group)

### Discussion

Goal #4: Pete thought that this accuracy investigation would be similar to the leafy spurge mapping project with the exception that some of this groundtruthing could be done by walk-ins.

Goal #6: Tamara recommended that it would be better to have a conservative number 5,000 to 10,000 for the collection of beetles. She thought that we had been lucky to have hit the Lowry collection site just at the right time last year. Pete pointed out that included in the 23,000 beetles were 10,000 purchased by Tyler Jacox for the CPW, from Montana. Tamara said she would rather work with John Kaltenbach, CDA Insect Nursery in Palisade, than overpay for beetles from Montana.

The Group recommended that the original Goals #5 and #6 should be combined into a new Goal #6, and Tamara proposed a change in the wording.

Goals # 9 and #10: Geoff questioned whether it is correct considering the politics and owners to name the parcel with leafy spurge near Stagecoach. Tamara wondered if the same could be said regarding the Peroulis property. Ben said that he would check with Tiffany and Todd Hagenbuch regarding wording for the Stagecoach parcel and Jesse Schroeder regarding Peroulis.

Goal #11: Emily thought that the release of beetles should be incorporated into new #6. Emily asked the Group what they thought about releasing beetles in Island Park, which she thought

would be the most appropriate first location in Dinosaur National Monument. Tamara wondered if there would be permitting issue with releasing CDA beetles in Utah. Emily said that she would check with John Kaltenbach.

Goal #12: Ben explained that he put this as a goal because Tepee Draw was a model for the management of leafy spurge and that he and Baili had performed a site visit to monitor the leafy spurge on J Quarter Circle Ranch after it had been treated for three years. Baili thought that this Goal should include outlining future management plans. She didn't think that there was a need to monitor. Pete recommended that JQC be removed. Tamara agreed and the treatments and management plans for 2021 would be better located in the YRLSP 2021 Accomplishments.

Ben pointed out discussions at a past meeting, where it was agreed that the YRLSP, a volunteer organization, does not have the capacity to create management plans.

The Group recommended that the wording be changed. Geoff thought that the wording should be general, which would include how the YRLSP and partners treat leafy spurge on Tepee Draw, JQC and other parcels.

Goal #14: In this discussion Ben said that the Moffat County Commissioners and especially Commissioner Beck had been really supportive of the YRLSP and that Ray had retired. Geoff asked who are the newly elected Commissioners. John said that there were two new commissioners, Melody Villard and Tony Bohrer. John said that he would try and find out which commissioner will be active in the YRLSP. Tamara suggested that John talk with Jesse before talking with Ray.

Ben suggested that it would be better to give our annual YRLSP update to the RC and MC BCCs sooner than later.

Goal #15 and old Goal #16: Ben said that he thought that since the YRLSP has been working on leafy spurge for five years and we have had a significant number of accomplishments that a Five Year YRLSP Report would be a good document to share with the public.

In regards to funding needed for the YRLSP, Tamara said that we have plenty of funds for 2021 considering all the uncertainties of Covid-19 and if we decided that we need funds they should address a specific need. She thought that if we need future funds we could apply to the CWCB Statewide Fund or to the Yampa River Fund.

Geoff agreed that the YRLSP needs to set a goal to identify a need before applying for funds.

The Group recommended that the original Goals #15 and #16 be combined into a new #15.

Ben said that he would put together a Draft Five Year Report for review showing the success of the YRLSP.

It was generally agreed that the Draft 2021 Goals need to be shortened to fit on to one page.

Task 9: Tamara and Group to review wording of Goal #6

Task 10: Ben to check in with Jesse on the wording of Goal #7 and Tiffany and Todd on the wording of #8 regarding the inclusion of owners' names.

Task 11: Emily to check with John Kaltenbach to see if there are any issues of releasing beetles across state lines.

Task 12: Tamara and Group to review wording of Goal #12

Task 13: John to see which MC Commissioner will want to be active in the YRLSP for the next few years.

Task 14: Group to review all the Draft 2021 Goals to recommend which one can be shortened and others deleted so that this document can fit on one page.

Task 15: Ben to put together a Draft YRLSP 5-Year Report for review.

#### Fifth Discussion: Confirm 2021 Calendar of Events

Ben screen shared the 2021 Calendar of Events discussed and approved at the October YRLSP meeting. He asked the Group if there were any changes or additions.

Ben questioned whether the 3 listed beetle release sites was comprehensive. Tamara said that she would think about a release plan and work on new wording.

Tamara suggested that there is a need to address a process for contributing to Chloe's work. Pete thought that this overlaps with the leafy spurge mapping project. With further Group discussion it was decided to add a new event for the checking of Chloe's polygons. Pete said that it should be accomplished during the same dates as the mapping, June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

John said that he was willing to work on owner access permissions. Pete will get specific landowner information to John and Geoff. Pete said that Chloe's landowners will include the City of Craig and Seeley (Wellsweep Ranch) in the Craig area, K Diamond and Tri-State in the Little Yampa Canyon and Axial Basin reaches, and possibly the Darryll Steele property in Maybell. On the list of landowners Pete will list the reason why the YRLSP would like to get access permissions from each landowner.

Also, Tamara thought that if we want to display some of the mapped leafy spurge infestation on our website we need to get permission from Camilletti.

Pete said that there is a need for permission from Cross Mt. Ranch. He is sure that below Cross Mt that there are infestations but realistically if we don't get permission all we will get are trace infestations visible from the rafts. Geoff said that the Cross Mt. Ranch manager is Rex Tuttle and it would be better to contact him instead of the owner.

Ben volunteered to help John and Geoff in getting access permissions.

Task 16: Tamara to work on wording to address a beetle release plan for Site Releases.

Task 17: John, Geoff, and Ben will work on getting landowner access permissions for mapped leafy spurge, this summer's upcoming leafy spurge a mapping, and for the groundtruthing of Chloe's satellite polygons.

Task 18: Pete to get a list of landowners to John for obtaining the access permissions, which will include the reasons for needing the access.

#### Sixth Discussion: Partner Reports

Friends of the Yampa Donations Account: Lindsey Marlow had to leave the meeting so Ben reported that, after the last Request for Payment to John for the post office annual payment, the account balance was \$1,241.21. Lindsey had previously reported that there had been another \$100 donation and that donations for the YRLSP have been coming in through CO Gives.

NRCS: Baili advised the Group that the deadline for applications for Financial Assistance was January 8<sup>th</sup>. She said that this could be used to address leafy spurge. Tamara thought that this would be a good source of assistance for JQC Ranch. Ben said that he would contact Baili so that they could figure out a way to work with Bruce Johnson of JQC Ranch.

Ben thanked everyone for attending.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

YRLSP Regular Meeting: 10:00am Wednesday, February 10th at the Carpenter Ranch or by Zoom

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00