

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
MEETING**

**Thursday, September 15, 2016
1:00pm at the Carpenter, Ranch**

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Review Agenda
3. Agency Updates on 2016 Leafy Spurge Treatments (Routt County, Moffat County, BLM, Dinosaur Nat Mon, CPW, SLB, and NRCS)
 - a. In-Kind-Matches Procedures for CDA Weed Fund Grant
4. Review/Update on CDA Weed Fund Grant (Ben and Greg) See Attached Statement of Work and Budget
5. Update on CDA/Colorado First/YRLSP Funding Process (Ben and Lynn Haskins) See Attached Invoicing Process Sheet
6. Update on Establishment of Flea Beetle Nursery (Tyler, Greg, Jessica, and Todd)
7. Recommendation/Update regarding Data/Private Landowner Coordinator (Greg and Barry)
8. Update on Rig-To-Flip Leafy Spurge PR Video (Ben) See Attached Summary Update
 - a. Update on Approval of \$2,000 from Taylor Grazing Funds (Greg and Tim)
9. Mapping Update (Greg)
10. Other Updates/Notices/Events (Meeting Participants)
11. 2016 Tasks (Group) See Attached 9/6/2016 Task List
 - a. 2016 CDA Grant “Measurable Objectives”
 - b. Uncompleted Tasks from July 30th Meeting
 - c. Uncompleted Tasks from June 8th Meeting
 - d. Uncompleted Tasks from April 20th Meeting
 - e. Uncompleted Tasks from Next Steps September 30, 2015

12. Setting of “Where are we going from here?” Process

Adjourn (3:30)

Packet:

1. Agenda for 09/15/2016
2. CDA Grant Statement of Work
3. CDA Grant Budget
4. CDA Grant Invoicing Process Sheet
5. Leafy Spurge Video Summary Update
6. YRLSP Task List 09/6/2016

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

September 15, 2016, 1:00pm
Carpenter Ranch
Draft Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Executive Committee

Tim Corrigan	Routt County Commissioner	
Chuck Grobe	Moffat County Commissioner	Absent
John Kinkaid	Alternate MC Commissioner	Absent
Greg Brown	RC Weed Program Supervisor	
Jessica Counts	MC Pest and Weed Manager	Excused
Wayne Counts	Colorado First Conservation Dist	Absent
Barry Castagnasso	Routt County Land Owner	
Chris Rhyne	Little Snake BLM	Excused
Tamara Naumann	Dinosaur National Monument	Excused
Kris Middledorf	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	
Tyler Jacox	Alternate CPW	
Ben Beall	Yampa River System Legacy Partnership	
John Husband	Northwest Colorado Citizen Representative	

Advisory Committee

Todd Hagenbuch	CSU Routt County Extension	
Christine Shook	Natural Resources Conservation Services	Excused
Marsha Daughenbaugh	Yampa Valley Community Ag Alliance	
Jerod Smith	Colorado State Land Board	Absent
Geoff Blakeslee	The Nature Conservancy	Absent
Rusty Lloyd	The Tamarisk Coalition	Absent
David Smith	University of the Redlands	Absent

Guests

Don Stinton	Horticultural Services
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Ben Beall opened the meeting with introductions of all present. Ben welcomed Kris Middledorf, CPW Area Manager of Routt and Jackson Counties. Kris said that he appreciated being in Steamboat Springs after serving in the Marine Corps and with CPW in Boulder.

Meeting Discussions:

First Discussion Review of Agenda:

Ben reviewed the agenda pointing out that the majority of the items were related to the CDA Weed Fund Grant: 1. Agency updates of treatments of leafy spurge which would be used as partner match and in-kind-match; 2. Update on the Statement of Work and Invoicing Process for the CDA Grant; and 3. Finally a review of YRLSP tasks especially the Measurable Objectives contained the CDA Grant.

Tyler Jacox asked if he could present to the group a CPW Grant Application. Marsha Daugenbaugh asked if the group could discuss Leafy Spurge Education.

Second Discussion CPW GOCO Grant Application:

Tyler explained that CPW had applied for \$10,000 from a GOCO Program to improve the environment on public lands. The \$10,000 would be used to treat leafy spurge on the State Wildlife Area next fall. Tyler requested that the partners write letters of support for the grant application. Tim Corrigan and Greg Brown said that Routt County would write a letter. Ben suggested that Tyler create a draft letter of support and send to the partners. The grant application is due Friday, September 23rd. Ben volunteered to write a letter for the YRLSP.

Task 1: Tyler to create a draft support letter

Task 2: Partners write a support letter for CPW Grant Application

Third Discussion Agency Updates on 2016 Leafy Spurge Treatments:

Greg reviewed RC treatments especially north of Hayden. He also discussed the YRLSP mapping project. RC hasn't entered their information into the CDA Noxious Weed web site. He has received mapping info from Jessica Counts but cannot read the Moffat County data. Tim suggested that he get some help from RC GIS Department.

Tyler stated that Jim Haskins was spraying plateau as we speak on the State Wildlife area.

Ben wanted to remind everyone even those partners not present that we need to document all leafy spurge treatment expenses for our match in the CDA Weed Fund Grant.

Greg asked Don Stinton for an update on the Stetson Ranch just south of Stagecoach. Don said that they had aerial sprayed about 40 acres with Tordon. It seemed to work. Most of the vegetation was visibly affected. Don said that there would have to be follow up next year. He also noted that he had observed other small patches of leafy spurge in the area. He was not sure of the property ownership. It may either be CPW State Park or the Williams Ranch.

There were questions regarding if Routt County charges private property owners for weed treatments. Greg and Tim both stated that RC is having conversations in how to deal with this issue.

Task 3: Partners to document all costs of leafy spurge treatments and mapping work for the CPW Grant

Fourth Discussion CDA Grant Application Invoicing Process:

Ben explained that in discussions with Steve Ryder, CDA Weed Fund, and Lynn Haskins, CO First Conservation District that an invoicing process had been worked out. Ben was sorry that Lynn could not be at the meeting since CO First plays such an important function as the fiscal agent for the CDA Grant. In this process the YRLSP is the initiator and is responsible for sending all necessary information and forms to CDA and CO First is the payer for all invoices after receiving the funds from CDA.

Fifth Discussion: Establishment of Flea Beetle Nursery:

Greg, Tyler, and Todd Hagenbuch related to the group that they had released flea beetles supplied by the CDA Insectary staff from Fort Collins on two parcels on the State Wildlife Area just across US 40 from the CDOT rest area. They explained that these parcels are not a nursery. They had taken "initiation steps to establish a nursery". It will take a couple years before we will have a nursery. It was thought that there should be 3 or 4 more nursery sites in the Management Plan Area. Greg said that from conversations with Jessica Counts that Moffat County had released beetles in the past and maybe had a site.

They were positive about these sites because they observed existing flea beetles on the site. These had been released in years past and had survived. Even though these sites contained leafy spurge it seemed that the leafy spurge was being impacted by the beetles. Also they observed a type of moth for the first time that also feeds on leafy spurge.

It is the objective to get volunteers from the Master Gardeners to harvest and release the flea beetles when the nursery is ready.

Sixth Discussion Recommendation regarding the hiring of the Data/Private Landowner Coordinator:

Ben opened the discussion by saying that after the July meeting he and Greg were supposed to make a recommendation to the partners concerning the hiring of Barry Castagnasso as the Coordinator. Even though Ben and Greg had had communication with Barry nothing had been finalized to date.

Greg confirmed that he had had conversations with Barry and that Barry had also commenced doing work required of the Coordinator. They had not finalized payment or a set work schedule.

Barry said that he had been in contact with about 50% of the landowners along the river and that he had gotten from Moffat County through the Assessor's Office a list of all the land owners along the Yampa River in Moffat County. Tim suggested that he work with the RC GIS Department to get a RC list.

In the group's discussion there was a desire to have a more formal process in the hiring of the Data/Private Landowner Coordinator. There needs to be an agreement/contract that states the tasks to be performed and an hourly estimate with cost/per hour to accomplish these tasks. It has to conform to the \$9,000 set aside in the CDA Grant for this task. The group recommended that Barry take a look at the revised Job Description for the Data/Private Landowner Coordinator and create a proposal that the partners can review. It was felt that Greg should be the sounding board for Barry and be the overseer for this position.

Task 4: Barry to create a proposal for the Data/Private Landowner Coordinator working with the Revised Data/Private Landowner Coordinator stating estimate of hours necessary to accomplish tasks and cost per hour. This Proposal should be should be sent to the partners by Monday September 19th. The Partners need to respond to Greg as soon as possible so that we can complete the hiring of the Coordinator.

Seventh Discussion Update on Rig-to-Flip Leafy Spurge PR Video:

Ben asked the group to look at the Rig-to-Flip update included in the meeting packet. John Husband reported that Cody Perry had not been able to make it to Craig for the proposed interview because Cody had had an accident with an elk. Ben asked the group if there were any recommendations for the video other than what Cody had in his update as the "three basic parts". Everyone thought that it would be important to be able to review another draft of the video. Marsha recommended that the video be no longer than 5 minutes and the need for a "How to get Involved"/"Point of Contact".

Greg and Tim discussed the RC Weed Board recommending the payment of \$2,000 for the PR video. Greg presented the Weed Boards to the RC Commissioners for approval

and RC has already cut a \$1,000 check for work accomplished on the video by Rig-to-Flip.

The group recommended that Ben be in touch with Cody to coordinate the video and to make sure that the interviews take place. Greg was upset that Cody had missed the agreed on time for his interview which has never taken place.

Task 5: Ben to coordinate with Cody Perry regarding the Leafy Spurge PR Video

Task 6: Rig-to-Flip to have a draft video for the YRLSP next meeting

Eighth Discussion River Raft for Leafy Spurge Spraying:

John Husband reported a conversation that he had had with Sparky Tabor, BLM Grand Junction regarding a raft that BLM had outfitted for spraying weeds from the river. John passed out pictures of the 18 foot raft with weed spraying equipment. John explained that this rig had a 400ft telescoping spray rig (possibility of 600 ft) with 35 gal tank. The total cost of this raft with equipment was around \$28,000. It took a year or so to get it set up.

Ben pointed out that a river mobile raft for spraying was a goal in our White Paper.

In the following group discussion there were a couple of important questions that will need to be answered: How do we treat this leafy spurge infestation along the Yampa River without some sort of access from the river? And In order to have enough chemical product, can the herbicide be mixed with river water? And Do we need to filter the river water? And How long can a raft be used on the Yampa due to low water?

Task 7: The need to follow up with Sparky Tabor for more information

Ninth Discussion Educational Program for the YRLSP:

Marsha passed out a draft two-sided leafy spurge information sheet. She thought that along with the PR video that it would be important to have handouts that would be available to all at all kinds of meeting and events. There is a need for education regarding leafy spurge. Very few even know the plant or understand its impacts.

The group thought that this was a great idea. It was thought that besides information on the plant there needs to be information on the impacts i.e. reference impacts to ag from Montana and North Dakota and to wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Greg volunteered to work with Marsha to get some information on the impacts to ag. Tyler and Kris will get information to Marsha concerning the leafy spurge impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Task 8: Marsha to present another draft at the next meeting of the YRLSP

Tenth Discussion 2016 YRLSP Tasks:

Ben directed the group's attention to the Tasks List(s) in the meeting packet. He thought that the most important tasks for the YRLSP were the "Measurable Objectives" in the CDA Weed Fund Grant and the 2016 Goals/Objectives included in the YRLSP White Paper. After the discussion the following are the priorities for the YRLSP in 2016:

1. Create a 10-year Leafy Spurge Plan. Greg volunteered to create a draft Plan modeled on various weed plans.
2. The necessity to apply for a 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant. Ben volunteered to put together a draft application for the next meeting. This application will need to be in by the beginning of January.
3. The need to create the "Red Blob" map of the leafy spurge infestation in the Management Plan Area. The group will need a mapping update at the next YRLSP meeting.
4. The need for a report from Barry at our next meeting in order to fulfill the requirements of the funding of the Data/Private Landowner Coordinator.
5. Educational outreach

Next Meeting Thursday October 27th at the Carpenter Ranch at 1:00pm

Meeting adjourned 4:00pm