

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
MEETING
APRIL 20, 2016, 1:00pm
CARPENTER RANCH**

Proposed Agenda

1. Discussion of YRLSP Organization Structure
 - Executive Committee
 - Advisory Committee
 - Spokesperson/Chairman/Vice-Chairman
2. Discussion of YRLSP priorities and review of 2016 Goals
 - Mapping
 - Research Treatment Solutions
 - Outreach to Landowners
 - Establishing a Leafy Spurge Beetle Nursery
 - Create 10-year Plan
3. Review of CDA Grant Funding Possibilities
4. Discussion and Approval of CDA Grant Funds
5. Coordination with Colorado First Conservation District
6. Possible Sources of other Funds
7. Visit of John Stulp, Governor's Special Water Policy Advisory
 - Topic for Discussion: Leafy Spurge
8. Public Relations Efforts
 - a. Organize of Yampa River Float Trip for Local and Statewide Leaders
 - b. Other
9. Set next Meeting
10. Adjourn

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

APRIL 20, 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	
Wayne Counts	Colorado First Conservation Dist	Absent
Barry Castagnasso	Routt County Land Owner	
Chris Rhyne	Little Snake BLM	
Tamara Naumann	Dinosaur National Monument	
Jim Haskins	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	
Marsha Daughenbaugh	Yampa Valley Community Ag Alliance	
Jerod Smith	Colorado State Land Board	
Geoff Blakeslee	The Nature Conservancy	
Rusty Lloyd	The Tamarisk Coalition	by Phone
David Smith	University of the Redlands	by Phone

Ben Beall opened the meeting with introductions of all present and those on conference call.

Ben reviewed the reasons for the meeting: 1. The Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project (YRLSP) had its last meeting in December; and 2. We have heard unofficially that the Colorado Department of Agricultural Weed Program grant application for \$105,000 applied for in January has been only partially funded for \$30,000.

Ben reviewed the creation of the YRLSP, its Executive Committee, and the Advisory Committee. He asked the question whether there should be a more formal organization other than the existing ad hoc committee. It was the consensus that for now the YRLSP would continue to operate as an ad hoc committee.

There was a discussion concerning the potential grant funding of \$30,000 and possible fiscal issues. The following are the main questions that were brought up:

1. Are there strings attached to the funds by the CDA Weed Fund?

Task: Greg Brown is to communicate with Steve Ryder to find out what conditions will be attached to the funds.

2. Considering that the YRLSP is just an ad hoc committee how will the potential grant funds be controlled and can the YRLSP even sign contracts (Tim Corrigan)?

There was a discussion of the relationship between the YRLSP and CO First Con Dist. Since the representative of CO First was not present this question could not be answered.

3. What are the requirements for disbursements of Colorado First Con Dist who stepped up and volunteered to be the Project's fiscal agent (Marsha Daughenbaugh)?

Task: John Husband and Chris Rhyne are to coordinate with CO First to find out their capabilities of handling disbursements and signing contracts for the use of the potential \$30,000 grant.

Ben pointed out that the main responsibility of the group today was to review and reprioritize the 2016 goals and project priorities developed in the YRLSP White Paper and CDA Weed Program grant application. This is necessary because the existing goals and priorities were dependent on receiving the full \$105,000 grant.

The existing goals/priorities are:

1. Mapping
2. Research treatment solutions
3. Outreach to landowners
4. Establish a leafy spurge beetle nursery
5. Create a 10-year plan

Discussions on YRLSP goals/priorities:

Tamara Naumann asked what we can get for \$30,000.

Jim Haskins said that we need to get mapping. We need mapping of the infestation if we are to get future funding (Tamara).

Greg explained his discussion with CDA about their offer that the YRLSP could put all existing and future data on the CDA mapping site. CDA would administer the map on their site. All one would need is a password to access the site to view or enter data.

Greg and Jessica Counts thought that it would be easy to download all the Routt County and Moffat County leafy spurge location data and even the data from commercial treatment applicators. Chris thought it would be easy to use the CDA web based system to create our mapping including her BLM data. Tamara related that she would be hiring someone to collect National Monument data this summer. She wanted to know how she could access the site to understand how it would work.

Task: Greg will send out an email to everyone with the pertinent information concerning the CDA web site and access information.

Chris asked Jim about the possibility of using HPP funding for mapping. Jim thought that there would be about \$30,000 that the YRLSP could get from Routt County HPP. He was not sure what the situation is in Moffat County.

Task: Jim will check to see if there would be \$30,000 available for YRLSP from RC HPP.

Task: Jim and Chris will check with Moffat County HPP to see if they would be willing to fund the YRLSP priorities.

Ben noted that with the \$30,000 from CDA and a possible \$30,000 plus from HPP that there would be funds to complete the aerial mapping from Hayden to Dinosaur National Monument as proposed in the CDA grant.

David Smith stated that web based mapping would work and be the way to tell the leafy spurge story. David mentioned the availability of infrared satellite data and Lidar. Christine Shook agreed that the YRLSP should be able to complete an infestation map using local and available satellite data. NRCS would be willing to help with this project and see what is available.

Greg explained that with the existing local data and CDA weed data that one could create a "red blob" map. What needs to happen in the future is that the local data be changed from the requirements of List "B" noxious weeds to the List "A". The difference is mapping with large polygons vs actual locations. With ground-truthing by YRLSP partners the "red blob" would be transformed to better and more true map of the leafy spurge infestation. Greg thought that Routt County's GPS data is adequate create a List "A" type map.

Task: Jessica will check to see what GPS data is available from Moffat County.

The question arose concerning the how and the who as far as coordination of this local mapping effort.

Barry Castagnasso thought that most landowners have maps of noxious weeds on their lands and these could be included in the map. This brought up the discussion of the hiring of a project coordinator whose duties would not only be the coordinator of the mapping project but also the person to outreach with landowners and entering their data.. This project coordinator could also assist the landowners and NRCS with EQIP funds.

There was a consensus that the YRLSP should proceed with creating a local map of the leafy spurge infestation in Routt and Moffat Counties.

Task: Tim and Greg will approach Robert Felencek(SP) of the Routt County GIS Department to see how he could help in the printing out of the “red blob” map.

Task: The Mapping Committee (Greg, Chris, Christine, Tyler, Jessica, Barry, Jerod and David) will coordinate in order to get the local data together and create the “red blob” map and enter all available data into the CDA site.

Task: Ben and Geoff Blakeslee will work on a job description for the project coordinator to include mapping responsibilities and outreach to landowners. This will be in the form of an RFP. They will ask The Tamarisk Coalition if there is a possibility of a shared position.

Task: Jim will check to see if HPP funding could be available for the project coordinator.

Geoff suggested for 2017 to try and get the help of 3 to 4 summer interns from the University of the Redlands to do ground-truthing of the infestation.

Other 2016 goals/priorities:

Leafy Spurge Beetle Nursery

Greg related his discussions with the CDA Insectary staff concerning their willingness to assist in setting up a local leafy spurge beetle nursery, Greg also related that the local Master Gardeners would like to help in establishing this beetle nursery.

Task: The Beetle Nursery Committee (Greg, Jim, Todd Hagenbuch, and Jessica) will approach CDA Insectary staff concerning the process, timeline, beetle types, and location for leafy spurge nurseries.

Research Treatment Solutions

Greg and Tamara confirmed that it takes between \$30,000 -\$40,000 for a graduate research student. There was consensus that this research is critical in order to create the integrated treatment plan necessary for the existing leafy spurge infestation. Since

the YRLSP did not receive full funding with the CDA grant it will be necessary to raise funds for this research.

Task: In order to understand the local application of leafy spurge treatments RC Weed Program and MC Pest and Weed Management will document leafy spurge treatments for 2016 as a way to demonstrate that Routt and Moffat Counties are continuing to contain leafy spurge within the containment area and eradicate outlying leafy spurge infestations.

Jim pointed out that this infestation is migrating into every drainage out of the so-called containment area.

Create a 10-year Plan

Since it is unlikely that the research for treatment solutions will be completed in 2016, Ben asked the question of the group if the YRLSP would be able to create a 10-year plan in 2016.

There was consensus that the YRLSP could and should create a 10-year Leafy Spurge Plan in 2016.

Other Agenda Items

Possible Sources of Other Funds

Ben related that the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable has about \$1,000,000 to be used to fund water projects in the Yampa/White Basins. He has asked if these funds might be available to the YRLSP funding priorities. The answer he received was that the YRLSP was not eligible. It will be necessary for the YRLSP to develop sound reasoning regarding how a large leafy spurge infestation would negatively impact the Yampa River; the ecology and environment of the river and adjacent lands; impact wildlife and recreation uses of the river.

Tim thought that the Routt County Weed Board would be willing to fund up to \$10,000 of Taylor Grazing Funds for the YRLSP.

Task: Tim will check with the RC Weed Board concerning the uses of Taylor Grazing Funds for the YRLSP.

Visit of John Stulp, the Governor's Special Water Policy Advisor, to the Yampa White Basins

Marsha related that John has the ear of the Governor and he is making this tour to gather information regarding the Colorado Water Plan. Marsha handed out John's meeting schedule. She recommended that members of the YRLSP attend the meetings in Steamboat Springs and Craig in order to bring up the issue of the leafy spurge

infestation and its affect on the Yampa River. This could be the beginning of a necessary YRLSP PR project.

Task: Ben will attend the John Stulp meeting in Steamboat Springs and John Husband will attend the meeting in Craig.

Yampa River Float Trip

John explained his idea of having a Yampa River float trip of at least one day similar to the mid-June trip of 2015 where the 15-mile infestation on both banks of the Yampa was visible. The thought concerning this trip was that it would be more of a PR trip for local elected officials and important state leaders. There was a discussion of the appropriate time to see the false bloom. Tamara though it might be later this year. The consensus was that mid to late June would be best.

Task: John and Ben will work on an invitation list which should include someone who has the expertise to video document the infestation.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 8th at 1:00pm at the Carpenter Ranch