



YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

“... working together to establish an effective program of integrated management for leafy spurge...”

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

Wednesday 10:00am, April 13, 2022

CSC Extension Meeting Room

Moffat County Court House

Proposed Agenda

1. Welcome: Ben (5 minutes)
2. Introductions: (5 minutes)
3. Review Agenda: (5 minutes)
4. YRLSP Outreach Report (15 minutes)
 - a. State of the River
 1. Steamboat Springs (Ben)
 2. Craig (Tamara, John)
 - b. Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable (Tamara, Patrick)
 - c. CO Weed Managers Annual Meeting (Jesse, Tiffany)
5. Website Update (10 Minutes)
 - a. Static maps of Chloe's data (Pete)
 - b. Leafy spurge management with herbicides (Tamara, Jesse, Tiffany)
 - c. Other
6. YRLSP Summer Events (30 Minutes)
 - a. Collection and Release of leafy spurge beetles (Tamara et al)
 1. Purchase of beetles from Montana
 2. Trip to Front Range, June 20th to June 24th
 3. Releases of beetles, Little Yampa Canyon, JQ Circle Ranch, Tepee Draw, YRSWA, other June 20th to June 24th (Tamara, Chris, Jesse)

- b. Biocontrol Field Trip, first three weeks of July (Tamara)
 - 1. List of potential participants
 - c. Show Me Float, Friday June 10th or Saturday June 11th (John, Ben)
 - 1. List of potential participants
 - d. West Cross to Deerlodge mapping, first week in June (Pete, Ben)
 - e. Youth and Education, July? (Tamara)
 - f. Other
7. Partner Plans and Updates: Group (15 minutes)
- a. Friends of the Yampa and Donations Account
 - b. Routt County Weed Program
 - c. Moffat County Weed and Pest Management
 - d. Colorado Parks and Wildlife
 - e. Yampa River State Park
 - f. BLM
 - g. CO State Land Board
 - h. NRCS: Steamboat
 - i. NRCS: Craig
 - j. Dinosaur Nat Monument
 - k. MC CSU Extension
 - l. RC CSU Extension
8. Succession Planning 5th Edition (John, Ben) (5 minutes)
9. Other (10 minutes)

Next Scheduled YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at the Hayden Town Hall/Carpenter Ranch or By Zoom

Note: The YRLSP traditionally cancels the June Meeting due to summer events.

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

Meeting Packet:

Proposed Agenda

Spread Sheet for Participants of Show Me Float and Biocontrol Field Trip

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
Wednesday, April 11, 2022
CSU Extension Building
Craig, Colorado
and
By Zoom
Final Draft Meeting Notes

ATTENDEES:

Working Group Members Present

Donald Broom, Moffat County Commissioner
John Husband, Moffat County Citizen
Ben Beall, Routt County Citizen
Tamara Naumann, Moffat County Citizen
Pete Williams, Moffat County Citizen
Jesse Schroeder, MC Weed and Pest Management
Tiffany Carlson, RC Weed Program
Laurel Deitch, NRCS Craig
Reece Wells, Yampatika
Chris Rhyne, BLM Little Snake
Tyler Jacox, CO Parks and Wildlife
John Kaltenbach, CO Dept of Agriculture
Patrick Stanko, Community Agricultural Alliance

John Husband opened the meeting at 10:07

John asked everyone who was in person and on Zoom to introduce themselves. He asked those in person to move closer so that those on Zoom could hear. He announced that he was taping the meeting. Since there were no suggested changes to the agenda, he said that he would follow the agenda as written.

John asked for everyone on Zoom to raise their hands to get his attention if they wanted to make a comment or ask a question.

First Discussion: Outreach Report

1. State of the River Meetings in Steamboat (2/24) and Craig (2/23)

Ben Beall reported that the Steamboat meeting was well attended and he set up a table and had 6 or 7 interested parties sign up for the Show Me Float and the Biocontrol Field. He recommended that they need to be contacted.

Tamara Naumann said that in Craig that she was able to have a good conversation with those who came by her table.

John added that the Pavilion was full and that he wore his YRLSP T-shirt and talked to a lot of people.

2. Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable

Tamara reported that she has had two conversations with Patrick Stanko. They decided that she would put together two 100-word modules with photos with YRLSP and CWCB Grant information that Patrick would send out i.e., probably by E-Blasts.

3. CO Weed Managers Annual Meeting (December 2022)

The meeting format in (2021) was not a great opportunity to share what we're doing here. Tamara asked Jesse if he thought if the Weed Managers would be interested in Chloe's research work. Jesse said yes if they have the technology to use the results it would probably be of interest.

Tiffany Carlson said that she hasn't reached out yet but will try to for the 2022 meeting.

4. White River Alliance

Tamara said that she had been invited and gave an update on the YRLSP on February 17th by Zoom

5. Moffat County Board of County Commissioners

Tamara reported that she was scheduled to give a YRLSP update on February 22nd but was delayed by a blizzard. She said that Jesse covered for her. When she did arrive, the Commissioners allowed her to give her full report. Tamara asked Commissioner Broom if he had any comments.

Task 1: Tamara and Patrick will create information (100-word modules with photos and disseminate to the YWGBRT.

Task 2: Tiffany and Jesse will continue to try and get the YRLSP on the agenda of the CO Weed Managers Winter Meeting

Second Discussion: Website Update

1. Static Maps of Chloe's Data

Pete Williams reported that he is still working on these. The satellite imagery maps will have the same boundaries and scale as the YRLSP leafy spurge maps. In this format the two mapping data sets can be compared side-by-side.

Tamara added that the YRLSP has struggled with how to describe Chloe's work. Pete has put together a one-pager that is a synopsis of her work, but he'd like to edit that down to a few sentences, which could then be put on each map. He's concerned that printed copies of the maps should include some explanation describing what Chloe's data really represents.

2. Leafy Spurge Management with Herbicides

Tamara explained that it came up at our last meeting that our website needs a section relating to the use of herbicides. She volunteered to work on this but will not be able to get to it until the fall. She will be in touch with Tiffany and Jesse to get their thoughts.

Jesse thought that he will have better information to share after this summer.

Pete thought that a couple of photos covering the impact of herbicide on leafy spurge would be good to have to display on the web page.

Ben emphasized that integrated management is really an important subject. He asked John to fill in the Group about a conversation that he and John had this past week when John was trying to contact landowners.

John pointed out that there is a lot our website about biocontrol, mechanical treatment (hand pulling), research, and mapping, but little regarding herbicide use. The YRLSP is not trying to discourage herbicide use. If herbicides are properly applied it knocks down leafy spurge and reduces seed loads. Both beetles and herbicides have a role to play.

Tamara agreed that we need to make the new webpage happen. She reiterated that she will work on writing the text when she has more time, and we have one more season of data from Jesse's work in the field. Tamara emphasized that integrated management in the Yampa Valley needs to include uplands and watersheds. The YRLSP's focus is mainly in the riparian corridor, but a comprehensive approach to leafy spurge in the Yampa Valley will include upland treatments as well.

Jesse asked how hard it is to put links to other information sources on the website. A lot of what he's doing in Moffat County is based on existing research that is already published elsewhere. Jesse said that the Extension has work sheets. Pete said he can put links to the existing research on the new herbicide web page, so let him know what to add. The herbicide web page can be posted as "in development" and simply include the links until more textual matter is developed in the fall.

Laurel shared that USDA-NRCS has a good resource for leafy spurge treatment, in the form of a plant guide sheet. She provided directions to Pete on how to locate the guide sheet, so he could include this on the YRLSP website.

Tiffany told the Group that she will be making a site visit with Don Stinton and the new owners of Iron Springs Ranch (Stinton has been the contractor spraying the ranch, and is retiring). She will take notes and photos, and document what has been done. She thought that this could be a good example for the website, of the success of herbicides in stopping leafy spurge from getting into the Yampa River corridor.

Task 3: Pete will work to get Chloe's data displayed in maps available from the website.

Task 4: Tamara, Tiffany and Jesse will continue to work on creating information regarding the management of leafy spurge with herbicides for the YRLSP website.

Task 5: Pete to create the new web page for displaying information regarding the management of leafy spurge with herbicides.

Task 6: Tiffany to develop Iron Springs Ranch as a model for upland leafy spurge management.

Task 7: Jesse and Laurel to gather information regarding herbicides for managing leafy spurge for Pete to put on the website.

Third Discussion: Summer Events

1. Collection and release of leafy spurge Beetles

Tamara said that she is still planning to travel to the Front Range on June 20th for beetle collection on the 21st and sorting on the 22nd. Return and drop off beetles to Chris Rhyne and Jesse on the 23rd, launch on Little Yampa Canyon and finish up on the 24th.

John asked if there were enough volunteers.

Tamara said that she hadn't heard from Teresa Audesirk or Emily Spencer, but Ben and John Kaltenbach said that they are a go.

Ben asked about the logistics for Little Yampa Canyon.

Tamara said that she wanted to keep it fast and simple. She and Pete planned on bringing their trailer with two boats and park them in either Jesse's yard or the BLM parking lot on the way to the Front Range.

John asked if maybe we should ask the YRSP if they could help with their jet boat. Tamara thought that their schedule might be a problem and since we have already put bugs at the top and bottom of LYC, we only need to release in the middle sections.

John asked about alternative sites if there is not enough water for LYC.

Tamara informed the Group that the YRLSP and Tyler Jacox (CPW) had each ordered from Montana 5 lots of 1,200 Aphthona Beetles and 2 lots of 100 Oberea Beetles.

Tyler said he also asked for more Oberea with his order, doesn't know if that will happen or not.

2. Biocontrol Field Trip

Tamara is planning this event for the first two weeks in July. She will start working on it in the next couple of weeks. She will get together with Tiffany, Jesse and Laurel to set the date and get the word out. She has the list of interested parties that was put together from the various organization meetings and events. If anyone knows of other interested parties, please let Tamara know.

Tamara thought that the event should be kept small this year and if it is useful then we can plan for next year.

Tiffany said that as soon as the date is set, she will get the word out on RC's Social Media platform. She will also work with Patrick to get it in the Ag Journal, and ask the RC Conservation Dist. to use their list for distributing the announcement.

3. Show Me Float

John explained that this will be an awareness trip so we can share information about leafy spurge. We have picked a couple dates, Friday June 10th and Saturday June 11th. This will be a one-day float from Dorsey to possibly Pebble Beach or Loudy Simpson. We will use Ben's list but please get us your suggestions. We will send out invitations giving everyone the choice of the dates.

4. West Cross Mt. to Deerlodge Mapping

Pete advised the Group that the trip needs to be after the 3rd of June. He is flexible.

John said that he would make another effort to get the permissions for access, especially from the owner of Cross Mt. Ranch. He will try again with the owner's email.

5. Youth and Education

Tamara said that two dates have been chosen, June 28th for 9- to 11-year-olds from the Yampatika Camp Program and June 29th for the kids from the Boy's and Girl's Club of Craig. The events will be at the YRSWA, across US 40 from the rest area west of Hayden. Those assisting are Megan Stetson (CSU Extension, Craig), Tyler Jacox with a biologist (CPW), Laurel Deitch (NRCS, Craig), Chris Rhyne (BLM), John Kaltenbach (CDA), Reece Wells (Yampatika), and adult leaders of the Boy's and Girl's Club.

Task 8: Tamara, Jesse, and Laurel will set a date for the Biocontrol Field Trip

Task 9: The Group Members will get interested parties' names to Tamara for the Biocontrol Field Trip and to John for the Show Me Float.

Task 10: John and Ben will plan the Show Me Float and send out invitations.

Fourth Discussion Partner Plans and Updates

1. Friends of the Yampa and Donations Account

Ben said that he had talked to Lindsey Marlow regarding the balance in the Donations Account. After our February meeting we had a balance of \$4,449. As of April, the balance minus the FOTY fees is \$5,874. This must include the \$1,500 donation from Moffat County.

2. RC Weed Program

Tiffany reported that besides working with the new owners of Iron Springs Ranch on their leafy spurge infestation, she has held classes with the following regarding weeds, where she includes slides of leafy spurge and shares the YRLSP website: Winter Weed Class, RC Conservation Dist. Landowners meeting, Realtor's Weed Class, and Master Gardeners.

3. MC Weed and Pest Management

MC W&PM will continue to work on private land projects with landowners this year. They will have two years of data to look at after this year, so it will be interesting to see what results they are getting. Jesse also reported that they are having trouble filling seasonal positions due to a low number of applicants, which may affect how much they can get done this year.

Tamara said she'll get a map to Jesse of monitoring points where we'd like to release beetles in Tepee Draw next year. Pete will help retrieve the photos from those monitoring points. Chris asked if there are signs we could use to identify release sites, since more herbicide treatment is planned for the area as well. Tyler said he has the signs and will get them to Chris or Tamara.

4. CO Parks and Wildlife

Tyler Jacox reported that last year the YRSP some beetle releases and also had Troy Osborne do some fall herbicide treatments. Tyler has ordered more beetles for this year.

5. Yampa River State Park

Tamara informed the Group that she had had a walk-around the YRSP headquarters area with Jacob Dewhirst. He said that they have a contract sprayer that comes yearly, but does not know what has been treated. He's happy to help with access to LYC and youth outreach. It was obvious to Tamara that leafy spurge management has not been a priority for the YRSP.

6. BLM

Chris said Troy Osborne is lined up to do herbicide treatment in Tepee Draw from horseback and maybe from four wheelers. Tepee Draw may also need some more widespread follow-up treatment as well. Chris will monitor the Fortification Creek treatment site on July 5 with Tamara.

7. Colorado State Land Board

Tamara thought it would be great if John and Pete could visit with Darryl Steele and talk to him about getting his agreement for the release of beetles on the CSLB parcel situated along the north side of his property along the Yampa River. John in his communications with Darryl told him that he would be in touch when the leafy spurge can be seen. Tamara suggested early May, or as soon as the spurge can be seen. She would like to be able to be on that field visit to determine if the patch on SLB land would be a good beetle release site, if there are beetles already there, and if Darryl is agreeable to use it as a release site. She will need at least 2 weeks lead time with SLB if release is possible there.

8. NRCS Steamboat

Tamara informed the Group that Baili Foster has left NRCS and that in the future there will be a new contact.

9. NRCS Craig

Laurel said that there's not much to report right now. A number of range improvement projects are in the works with landowners, but she's not sure how many include weed treatments.

10. MC CSU Extension

Tamara said that she is going to meet with Megan Stetson and bring her up-to-date regarding outreach right after the YRLSP meeting today.

Task 11: John and Pete to meet with Darryl Steele to see if he will agree to the release of beetles on the SLB parcel.

Fifth Discussion: Succession Planning

John reiterated that this is a concern for some of us. We may not keep this up forever. The YRLSP has been great in raising the awareness of leafy spurge, but we need to think about what the next iteration looks like. Maybe it is a joint task force set up by Routt and Moffat Counties.

Ben added that this is the fifth time we have talked about this. This is not something that we have to do right away but somewhere down the road we need to put something in place. He will keep it on the future agendas.

Tamara observed that she has seen this with other weed management coalitions (like the Tamarisk Coalition), where there's a lot of enthusiasm and funding early on, but it fades as the project goes on. The agencies do continue with some efforts.

Tamara also stated that everyone needs to understand that we are all volunteers who are carrying the load.

Task 12: Ben to put Succession Planning on future meeting agendas.

Sixth Discussion: White River Alliance

Tamara asked John Kaltenbach if CDA had supplied the White River Alliance of Meeker and Rio Blanco counties with the 15,000 beetles that they say they released last year. The Alliance also said that CDA was going to monitor the release sites this year.

John had no knowledge of the project. He knew that in the past Rio Blanco County had released beetles and he thought that the beetles had an effect.

Tamara asked John Kaltenbach to keep us advised as to this project, and any observed outcomes and how many beetles were involved.

Task 13: John Kaltenbach to keep the YRLSP advised as to the findings regarding the beetle releases by the White River Alliance.

Next Scheduled YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at the Hayden Town Hall/Carpenter or by Zoom.

John pointed out that due to all the events and work in the summer that we would not have a June meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:11am