

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT  
MEETING**

**July 13, 2016, 1:30pm  
Carpenter Ranch**

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions
  2. Review Agenda
  3. Viewing of Preliminary Cut of Video of Leafy Spurge Float Trip (Geoff Blakeslee video technician)
  4. Discussion of using CDA Weed Fund Grant Funds to Defray the Cost of the PR Video of Leafy Spurge Float Trip (Ben Beall)
  5. Discussion of Job Description for Data/Private Landowner Coordinator and Process for Hiring same (Group)
  4. Mapping Update Greg Brown)
  5. Review of John Husband's Little Yampa Canyon Survey
  6. Approval of CDA Weed Fund Statement of Work and Initiation of YRLSP CDA Grant (Group)
- Adjourn (3:30)

# YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

July 13, 2016, 1:30pm  
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                          | Absent |
| Tamara Naumann    | Dinosaur National Monument                | Absent |
| Jim Haskins       | Colorado Parks and Wildlife               | Absent |
| Tyler Jacox       | Alternate CPW                             |        |
| Ben Beall         | Yampa River System Legacy Partnership     |        |
| John Husband      | Northwest Colorado Citizen Representative | Absent |

### Advisory Committee

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

### Guests

|               |                               |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Gary Williams | Agricultural Operator, Hayden |
|---------------|-------------------------------|

Ben Beall opened the meeting with introductions of all present.

## Meeting Discussions:

**First Discussion Review of Agenda:** Ben reviewed the agenda stating that he thought that the last agenda item, Approval of CDA Weed Fund Statement of Work (SOW) and Initiation of YRLSP Grant, is the most important and the one that needs to be finalized. He told the group that he had left off the agenda on purpose a review of the YRLSP Task List due to the necessity to address the SOW.

**Second Discussion Leafy Spurge Video:** The group viewed a preliminary draft cut of a video from the Leafy Spurge Float trip on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Ben updated the group on the Float Trip and that it had been agreed that there was a need for a PR aspect for the YRLSP. He and John Husband had agreed that the Float Trip would be a great opportunity for creating a PR video. Ben had contacted Cody Perry owner of Rig To Flip, a videographer, in Steamboat Springs and Cody had assigned a photographer to accompany the Float Trip.

Ben presented a Current Status Summary of the video project from Cody Perry stating that the final cost would be \$600 including completing interviews with Greg Brown and Ray Beck.

After viewing the video the group agreed that this was a rough cut but liked the idea. They recommended the following:

1. Needs to be longer than 31/2 minutes
2. The video should be educational and be aimed to the uninformed
3. There should be at least two parts to the video: 1. What is the problem? And 2. What are the solutions?
4. It should include a description of the group and include NPS-Dinosaur Nat Monument and CPW
5. Wide angle shots of the leafy spurge infestations
6. It was recommended to use as a model the videos on Water (3 parts) of the Routt County Conservation District.
7. See if a time lapse shot of the history of the leafy spurge infestations in Montana or North Dakota could be found.
8. Additional interviews were recommended: 1. Gary Williams as an ag operator; 2. CPW for history of State Park and Wildlife Area. Tyler Jacox will try and get Jim Haskins or Steve Znamenacek for the interviews. The group agreed that Tyler would also be a good interviewee. CPW should address the habitat issues along the Yampa.

Ben pointed out that these recommendations were an expansion of the existing scope of work. The group recommended spending more for the video...\$600 was probably too cheap.

## Tasks:

1. Ben will meet with Cody and address the recommendations of the group and get Cody to draw up a new scope of work with a cost estimate. Ben will discuss the additional interviews and interviewees with Cody.
2. Tyler will confirm an interviewee from CPW and coordinate with Cody.
3. Tim Corrigan and Greg will ask the Routt County Weed Board for \$1,000 from the Taylor Grazing Funds for the video.

**Third Discussion Data/Private Landowner Coordinator:** Greg reviewed the decision by the group at the June 8th meeting to combine the Data Coordinator and Private Landowner Coordinator into one person because of CDA only funding \$30,000. Ben presented a Job Description for a Data/Private Landowner Coordinator. This Job Description was a combination of the Mapping Coordinator and Project Coordinator presented at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The group recommended changes to the Job Description.

Greg wanted to make sure that all the partners keep track of their in-kind matches and to add the compilation of these in-kind matches to the job of the Data/Private Landowner Coordinator.

Tim questioned, how and who is responsible for hiring the Data/Private Landowner Coordinator? After discussion, Ben asked Barry if he would like to be Data/Private Landowner Coordinator. Barry said that he would like to but had to think about it. Gary agreed that Barry would be a good coordinator stating his own experience over many years since the 1950s dealing with weeds in western Routt County and in particular leafy spurge in the Focus Area. Gary asked who Barry would work under. It was decided that Barry would work under Greg and Jessica and also give reports to the full YRLSP group.

## Task

1. Ben will revise the Job Description including the group's changes and email it to Barry for his consideration.
2. Barry and Ben will communicate and make a recommendation by email to the group as to Barry assuming the role of Data/Private Landowner Coordinator.

**Fourth Discussion Mapping Update:** Greg told the group that he has been collecting GPS data points from around Routt County and has begun to collect this data for the regional map. Jessica Counts said that her crews had also collected data but she has not had time to send them in to Greg. Greg and Jessica agreed that the hiring of the

Data Coordinator will be important to compiling the data and creating the leafy spurge map. Ben presented an email from Tamara Naumann which explained the ongoing efforts of Dinosaur Nat Mon to GPS map leafy spurge on the Yampa River and the Green River near the confluence with the Yampa. She will complete the mapping of the Green in 2017.

Jessica also reported that she is working with Tamara on Teepee Draw. The past aerial spraying has not really worked. The aerial spraying has only affected the center of the infestation in the open areas. The infestation has expanded on the fringes back into the ponderosas. She is planning to do back-pack spraying and even has permission to enter the Monument for horseback spraying.

The group reviewed John Husbands report, inventory sheet and mapping of leafy spurge and other noxious weeds in 35 miles of Little Yampa Canyon during a canoe trip. His maps confirmed that leafy spurge has moved downriver from the original infestation area in western Routt County.

Christine Shook reported that she has some doubts identifying some leafy spurge infestations from satellite imagery that she has viewed. What she thought was leafy spurge might be yellow sweet clover. She needs to ground truth some of these infestations. She thinks that with more work and assistance from experts that she will be able to discern its color imprint

**Fifth Discussion CDA Weed Fund Statement of Work:** Ben explained that he had revised the Statement of Work to include comments from the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting which will be the YRLSP contract with CDA for our \$30,000 grant. The main changes are: the goals of the YRLSP with clearer descriptions of the Focus Area and Management Plan Area; the proposed hiring of a Data/Private Landowner Coordinator; addition of the funding for the PR video; and the descriptions of the proposed leafy spurge treatments by Routt County Weed Program and Moffat County Pest and Weed Management within the Focus Area or Management Plan Area. With the addition of the PR Video the proposed project funding was changed.

The proposed changes were accepted by the group with the recommendation that the expense proposed for the Leafy Spurge Video will probably have to be raised after discussions with Cody Perry.

Tim asked that if the Statement of Work is accepted by CDA who be responsible to CDA and who will be the signator of an agreement with CO First and of invoices to CO First? Geoff Blakeslee wanted to know what the role of CO First is. Jessica explained how MC Pest and Weed Management have worked with CO First in the past. It has been pretty smooth but someone will need to sign the invoices. The group designated Ben to be the YRLSP representative to CO First and the signator for agreements and invoices.

The group voiced concerns that CO First was not attending the YRLSP meetings. Jessica informed the group that Lynn Haskins does not work on Wednesdays so if we want Lynn as the Executive Director to attend we should change the meeting day.

It was agreed that the YRLSP next meeting would be **Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at either the Carpenter Ranch or the Hayden Town Hall.**

Tasks:

1. Greg will be the lead with CDA for the approval of the SOW and the \$30,000 grant.
2. Ben will talk with Lynn Haskins of CO First to see what their requirements are for grant approval, submitting invoices for payment etc.