

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT**  
**SCHEDULED MEETING**  
**Wednesday 10:00 October 14, 2020**  
**By Zoom Video Conference**

Proposed Agenda

1. Welcome: Ben (5 minutes)
2. Introductions: (5 minutes)
3. Review Agenda: (5 minutes)
4. Tepee Draw Powerpoint Presentation: Chris (60 minutes)
  - a. Presentation
  - b. Questions/Answers/Discussion
5. 2021 Calendar Planning: Group (25 minutes)
  - a. CWCB Grant Events
  - b. Front Range Beetle Collection
  - c. Show Me Float
  - d. Landowner Access Permissions
  - e. Leafy Spurge Mapping
6. 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
7. Other (Group) 5 minutes
  - a. Update on tasks from October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting

Next Scheduled Meeting:

YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday, December 9th at the Carpenter Ranch

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT**  
**Wednesday, October 14, 2020**  
**Zoom Video Conference**  
**Final Meeting Notes**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Working Group Members Present**

Ray Beck, Moffat County Commissioner  
Ben Beall, Routt County Citizen  
Tamara Naumann, Moffat County Citizen  
Pete Williams, Moffat County Citizen  
Tiffany Carlson, Routt County Weed Program  
Geoff Blakeslee, Routt County Citizen  
John Husband, Moffat County Citizen  
Emily Spenser, Dinosaur National Monument  
Jesse Schroeder, Moffat County Weed and Pest  
Chris Rhyne, BLM  
Todd Hagenbuch, RC CSU Extension

**Guests and Interested Parties**

Kacey Green, CO First Conservation Dist  
Jon Murray, RC Weed Program

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 Tom Corrigan, Baili Foster, and Tyler Jacox that for various reasons they could not participate today. He asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Ben explained that the agenda he had sent out was different from other meeting agendas. At the August meeting it had been decided that it may be more interesting to have a theme-based agenda. The theme in this agenda is a PowerPoint presentation by Chris Rhyne on the integrated management of the large infestation in Tepee Draw in Moffat County, north of Dinosaur Nat. Monument.

Ben asked if there were any questions about, additions or changes to the agenda.

**1. Tepee Draw PowerPoint Presentation: Chris**

Ben explained to the Group that Tepee Draw could be a great integrated management model for leafy spurge. Some of the partners involved include: BLM, MC Weed and Pest, Dinosaur Nat. Monument, Volunteers of the YRLSP, private landowners, and Troy Osborn (private applicator). He had talked to Chris and Pete about putting Chris' PowerPoint on the YRLSP website.

Pete will create a page for the Tepee Draw project on the YRLSP website ([www.yampariverleafyspurgeproject.com](http://www.yampariverleafyspurgeproject.com)) in the “Projects” menu. A video of Chris’s presentation will be available for viewing from this page.

You can go directly to the Tepee Draw page by clicking <http://www.yampariverleafyspurgeproject.com/tepee>.

## **2. Tepee Draw PowerPoint Discussion:**

Tamara Naumann thanked Chris for the PowerPoint and said that this is an example of what can be done over time. She explained she was excited on her recent visit to see that the leafy spurge beetles were still there.

Ben thought that it was important to note that after the chemical treatments dense native grasses were coming back. He said that this was also seen where treatments were used on J Quarter Circle Ranch.

Chris Rhyne said that this was an objective of the project. If it was seen that the native vegetation wasn’t coming back, the project could be modified or revegetation could be added to the project.

Emily Spenser congratulated Chris on the 10-year project and the changes that she has seen. Ben asked Emily if the treatments above Dinosaur National Monument in Tepee Draw were the cause of less leafy spurge seen in DNM. Emily said that this was a part of the decrease along with the continued pulling of leafy spurge in Tepee Draw to reduce the seed source.

Tamara added that the leafy spurge pulling in DNM started around 1997 and it wasn’t until later that the dense infestation was found above on BLM and private lands. Since this infestation was found and treated there has been a visible decrease on these lands and lower in Tepee Draw in DNM.

Ben asked Chris if there were any photos from the horseback spraying by Troy Osborn of Tepee Draw, which was funded by the Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project, that could be added to the PowerPoint. Chris said that she would talk to Troy to see if he had any photos. She explained that the horseback spraying was able to get into some areas, e.g. under the tree canopy, that were impossible with other treatment methods.

Tiffany Carlson asked if the treatments included the use of Tordon. Chris thought that historically Tordon was used because it was one of the chemicals approved by BLM but she would have to check to see if Troy Osborn had used it.

Tamara commented that she had been pleased to see, on her site visit, broad leafed herbaceous plants starting to grow back in the mix of native grasses.

Ben thought that, even though this was an upland site and the focus of the YRLSP was riparian infestations, this was a great model of integrated management that could be replicated in other sites.

Ben asked the Group how the YRLSP could help with Tepee Draw in the future. Chris thought that the collection and release of beetles or support of beetle monitoring efforts by the YRLSP would really be helpful. BLM would continue to fund spot treatments of leafy spurge. Tamara thought that it would be good if the YRLSP contributed with the stewardship of the site, especially since in restricting the seed source it would also protect Dinosaur National Monument. She said that she has added this site to potential sites for the future release of leafy spurge beetles.

Tamara asked Chris if she had funding to continue with the project in Tepee. Chris said that this was an ongoing project where funds are requested each year.

Geoff Blakeslee asked what sort of private activity is present on the site, and if these activities could be making the problem worse. Chris responded that activity is limited due to access. The private land has been owned by a non-resident family but this may be changing. There is some light livestock grazing and hunting.

**Task 1:** Pete to put the PowerPoint Presentation on the YRLSP website.

**Task 2:** Pete to put in the Meeting Notes the website access path for viewing the PowerPoint.

**Task 3:** Chris to plan to continue BLM's spot treatments of Tepee Draw.

**Task 4:** Tamara to place on the YRLSP projects list the release and monitoring of leafy spurge beetles in Tepee Draw to assist BLM with the management of the infestation.

**Task 5:** Ben to share the Zoom recording with Pete

### **3. Discussion on the Planning for YRLSP Calendar for Events in 2021:**

Ben explained that at the August meeting it had been decided that we try and get a schedule for all the 2021 summer events. This will be the first discussion of dates, which can be revisited and finalized at the December meeting.

#### CWCB Grant Events:

Front Range Beetle Collection: Tamara thought that this would conflict with the 2021 Show Me Float. She said that the timing of the collection would depend on the climate and weather. It probably would be around the same time as this year, which would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June—likely June 14<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. This includes both beetle collection and release activities (to sites not yet chosen).

Youth Outreach: Tamara explained that most of the events related to the Youth Outreach project would be scheduled for the first couple weeks of July. Tamara will meet with Jessica Counts, Tyler Jacox, and Jesse Schroeder in January to talk about these meetings.

Show Me Float: John Husband explained that the timing depends on the water level and the weather. In 2019 it even snowed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June, leading to the cancellation of the Float. Ben asked John if he thought that we would do the Float in Little Yampa Canyon. John stated that he thought the best time for an overnight trip in LYC again would be a Friday and Saturday on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of June.

Little Yampa Canyon Beetle Releases: Chris and Tamara discussed the release and timing of releases on BLM lands in LYC. Tamara explained that beetles need to be released within two days after collection. Chris explained that there was not adequate road access and that releases would need to be done from the river.

Leafy Spurge Mapping: Pete explained that the reaches of the Yampa that haven't been mapped were: 1) A five mile gap above Juniper Canyon and 2) The reach below Cross Mt to Deerlodge in DNM (3 to 5 miles). He recommended that we try and get access permission to put in around Government Bridge from TriState and take out at the CPW campground at Juniper so we wouldn't have to put in at Duffy Mt. The reach below Cross Mt. is owned by one owner. Pete thought that a good target schedule for mapping would be from June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Landowner Access Permissions: Pete said that we need the permissions for completion of the leafy spurge mapping. Ben asked about the Camelletti property so that we could include it on our leafy spurge mapping. Pete also thought that we should fill-in the missing permissions below Sunbeam. John didn't think that that would be difficult. Tamara recommended that a list of landowners that need to be contacted be developed. Tamara asked Geoff Blakeslee, who knows many of the landowners in the Maybell Area, if he could contact these landowners to get permission to put the existing mapping on the website and be able to release this information to the public. Geoff and Ben volunteered to help John contact the landowners. It was decided that the landowners needed to be contacted by January.

Landowner Field Trip/Outreach: Tamara would like to add to the calendar a Landowner Field Trip to show the on-the-ground effects of the beetles on leafy spurge. There are now several potential sites such a field trip, where the YRLSP has recently released beetles. She would like the help of Jesse Schroeder and Tiffany to suggest landowners who would be interested for a field trip in the first half of July.

**Task 5:** Tamara will organize the 2021 Beetle Collection and Releases.

**Task 6:** Tamara will organize the Youth Outreach Events.

**Task 7:** John and Ben will organize the 2021 Show Me Float

**Task 8:** John, Tamara and Pete will develop a list of landowners from existing information, who should be contacted for access permissions and public information releases.

**Task 9:** Geoff to assist with contacting Maybell Area landowners for their permissions.

**Task 10:** John, Ben and Geoff will contact landowners for access permissions using a 2021 Access Form.

**Task 11:** Group will finalize the Event Dates at the regular December Meeting.

#### **4. Partner Plans and Updates for 2020:**

##### CWCB Grant:

1. Tamara reported that within the next week she will request from CWCB an Extension of Performance due to Covid 19 for the Youth and Public Events. She said that she has already been assured of approval. This Extension will be for the entire grant.
2. Tamara will file by November 19<sup>th</sup> the 6-month CWCB Report.
3. She recently talked to Dan Tekiela, U Wyo, in regards to the research of Chloe and Hannah. Dan said that Chloe's satellite imaging is going well. She has chosen the imagery and is using computer analysis of leafy spurge data from Wyoming for comparison. Hannah has reviewed her data with peers and will be finalizing her report soon. These reports should be available by the next meeting. Tamara is expecting an invoice from U Wy in another week.
4. Tamara reported that last summer she had been able to visit only a few legacy biocontrol release sites. Most of the remaining sites are scattered upland sites and landowners have been less than responsive. Also some of these sites have sketchy data. She doesn't think that it is worthwhile to try to visit all these sites. She feels confident from the sites visited that the beetles are surviving and it is worth it to bolster the populations of beetles in the Yampa Valley. Tamara will get a list of the remaining sites to Jesse and Tiffany in case they meet up with any of these landowners so they can see if they have any interest in biocontrol.

##### Friends of the Yampa:

Ben reported that he had not been able to contact Lindsey Marlowe in regards to the FOTY/YRLSP Donations Account. He assumes that there have been no new donations so that the account balance remains \$1305. He said that these funds will be available for expenses for the Show Me Float or the Front Range beetle collection project.

##### Routt County Weed Program:

Tiffany reported that the Weed Program is wrapping up their season. She said that Jon Murray, who is on this Zoom Meeting, is resigning his position with the Weed Program. Tiffany asked if anyone knows of a qualified person to fill this position—please let her know. She also advised Tamara that she would like to help with any public/landowner biocontrol outreach events. The Weed program's busiest time is May through July 4<sup>th</sup>. After this time she would be available.

##### Moffat County Weed and Pest:

Jesse reported that his approach this summer was to try and connect with a few landowners. His emphasis was on the larger-scale upland sites of Stan Perolis, Jay Wagner, and landowners in the Divide Area going to Wyoming. He reported that even with the dry conditions he was able to try new chemical combinations. He will have to wait for next year to see the results. Jesse said that he was really pleased with how a combination of Quinclorac and Overdrive had worked in the upper reach of the Maybell Ditch. There was not much leafy spurge left. Tamara asked Jesse who he had worked with in the Baggs area. Last summer she visited Patrick O'Toole's Ladder

Ranch, which stretches along the Colorado/Wy border. She found some bugs. His lands have also been sprayed and they look good. He gave Tamara positive feedback on what Jesse was doing for Perolis. Tamara asked Jesse to let us know if he finds anyone who wants beetles through his work in north Moffat County.

#### BLM:

Chris wanted everyone to know, if it hadn't been reported at the last meeting, that BLM had helped with a biocontrol release on Fortification Creek this summer. Tamara thought that this site might be good for a future field visit. Tamara wanted to let Chris know that she had met Jacob Dewhirst, CPW Yampa River State Park Director, and he was interested in releasing beetles along the river. Tamara asked Chris if they could sit down to discuss where BLM might want to release beetles in Little Yampa Canyon. Chris said that she had already been working on a map using the 2019 YRLSP spurge maps. From her quick analysis there are no sites that would be easily accessible from by land. Releases will have to be done by boat.

#### Dinosaur Nat. Monument:

Emily stated that she has tentative dates for the two leafy spurge trips for 2021: May 24<sup>th</sup> to May 29<sup>th</sup> and June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>. On these trips they will be pulling only flowering plants and mapping leafy spurge infestations. She asked if she could participate in the YRLSP Front Range leafy spurge collection trips. She asked Tamara how long you could hold beetles before release. Tamara said two days. Emily wondered with that short of time frame whether she might be able to get back and release some of the beetles in Island Park. Tamara offered that as we get closer to the collection date, if Emily can't participate, then the YRLSP could allocate some beetles to DNM and figure out how they could be released.

#### Routt County CSU Extension:

Todd Hagenbuch reminded the Group that because of Covid 19 it had been difficult for the Master Gardeners to assist this year but they are still interested and would like to participate next summer. Todd also related that he is keeping his eye on the leafy spurge infestation on the Stetson Ranch. The ranch is still for sale but he was pleased to report that the infestation had been sprayed this year.

#### **Other Updates:**

##### Loudy Simpson Boat Ramp Improvement and Bank Stabilization Project:

Commissioner Ray Beck related that due to safety concerns with the old boat ramp the county had upgraded the boat ramp at Loudy Simpson. Moffat County received \$190,000 in funding for the project: \$116,000 from a CPW Fishing Grant, \$45,000 from the Yampa Fund, and the remainder as match from Moffat County. John remarked that the new ramp looks great. Ray said that there is still a pile of logs that were used for bank stabilization that need to be burned. The ramp is ready for use.

##### J Quarter Circle Ranch:

Ben said that one of his tasks from the last meeting was to set up a meeting with the owner of JQC Ranch. He had sent an email but had not received a reply. He said that he would try and set

up a meeting when the owner is in town, to include Baili Foster and Tamara, to figure out if there is anything that we could assist with in dealing with the leafy spurge infestations.

#### Uploading of Maps to EDDMapS:

Pete reported that he had sent EDDMapS the 2019 YRLSP spurge mapping data in March. In September he received notice that the data had finally been accepted by EDD MapS. He went to the site, and just as Emily had found with the DNM leafy spurge data she had uploaded, the data was not visible on the site using a simple data search. The only way he could view the data was to do a specific search on his name as a contributor. Pete complained that this meant EDDMapS was clearly not a very intuitive resource for the general public. Pete asked Jesse if Moffat County was having the same issue. Pete had understood that the Colorado Department of Agriculture was requiring the county weed programs to upload their data to the EDDMapS database. Jesse said that he had talked to Lara Duran, CDA Weed Fund staff, before she retired and that she had said that CDA is hesitant to put specific private landowner information out to the public. Pete pointed out that while the EDDMapS database is used by the CDA, it is a run by a separate organization with its own restrictions. EDDMapS has a question about landowner permission during the upload process, and Pete had specifically only uploaded data for which there was private landowner permission. Further, this concern should not explain the invisibility of the Dinosaur National Monument data on the EDDMapS site. Tamara asked Tiffany and Jesse if they knew who had replaced Lara Duran at CDA. Tamara added that she knows personally the Commissioner of Ag, Kate Greenberg, and that it might be possible for her to call Greenberg to see if the YRLSP can establish a better relationship with the CDA Weed Fund.

#### **Next Scheduled Meeting:**

YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday, December 9th at the Carpenter Ranch or by Zoom

Meeting Adjourned: 12:10