

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
MEETING
Wednesday October 9, 2019
CSU/Moffat County Extension Office
539 Barclay St., Craig, CO
West Side of Moffat County Courthouse**

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions: Welcome (5 minutes)
2. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
3. Update on CWCB Grant (Tamara) 10 minutes
 - a. Report to CWCB
 - b. Plans for 2020
 - c. Next Steps
4. Plans for Leafy Spurge mapping 2020 (Pete) 10 minutes.
 - a. Update on 2019 mapping
 - b. Use of information
 - c. Landowner permissions
 - d. Next steps
5. Planning for Maybell Ditch Landowners Meeting (Tamara, Kendall) 15 minutes
 - a. Coordination with Mike Camblin
 - b. Invitation to landowners
 - c. Presentation (Who,What)
6. Landowner Outreach (Group) 10 minutes
7. Discussion of need for Revenue Stream (Group) 10 minutes
 - a. Report regarding CDA Weed Fund Grant
 - b. Possible expenditures for 2020
 1. Landowner outreach
 2. Beetle monitoring expenses
 3. Other
 - c. Requests for donations

8. Update on YRLSP Website (Pete, Ben) 10 minutes
 - a. Recent additions
 - b. Change of ownership
 - c. Payment to Cody Perry for costs of maintaining website (See invoice)
 - d. FOTY donation account balance

9. Monitoring of 3-Year Chemical Treatments (West of Hayden, Tepee Draw) (Greg, Jesse) 5 minutes

10. Other Reports (Group) 5 minutes
 - a. New logo (Tamara)

11. Update Goals for 2019 (Group) 5 minutes
 - a. Reports to supporting organizations: YWGRT (Tamara), FOTY Board (Ben), MC and RC BCC (Ray, Tim coordinate Group), CDA (Ben) and the YRSLP (John)
 - b. Coordinate with the YWGRT Stream Management Planning (understanding of the leafy spurge infestations) (Tamara)

12. Other: 5 minutes

Next Scheduled Meeting:

YRLSP Regular Meeting: Wednesday December 11th at 10:00am at the Carpenter Ranch

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

Meeting Packet:

Proposed Agenda
2019 YRLSP Goals

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

October 9, 2019

CSU/Moffat County Extension, Craig, CO

Meeting Notes

ATTENDEES:

Working Group Members Present

Jesse Schroeder, Moffat County Weed and Pest Management

Ben Beall, Routt County Citizen

Tamara Neumann, Moffat County Citizen

John Husband, Moffat County Citizen

Pete Williams, Moffat County Citizen

Emily Spencer, Dinosaur National Monument

Chris Rhyne, BLM Little Snake

Guests and Interested Parties:

Jessica Counts, CSU/Moffat County Extension

Jeff Comstock, Moffat County

Jordan Fleming, Tri State

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 10:06. The Group introduced themselves.

Ben asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none.

First Discussion: Update on CWCB Grant

Tamara Naumann said that we are on schedule and on budget. University of Wyo part of the grant has billed through June. She needs to get an invoice from the U Wyo for work through October for the November 19th report.

Chloe Mattilio, U Wyo has been working on the remote imagery. She has chosen a 14-mile reach of the Yampa south of Craig, using Pete Williams's leafy spurge infestation data to see if she can match satellite imagery with Pete's maps.

Hannah Kuhns, as Tamara reported in August, is working on four sites: west of Loudy Simpson, Wagner, Four-mile SLB property, and Schaffer-Wand. There have been as reported earlier some setbacks on some of the sites from lack of communication with the landowners: The Wagner plot was partially sprayed, but Hannah was able to compensate for the damage. The Schaffer-WAND plot was hayed. Data (grazing,

herbicide treatments) on all the sites was collected in September. This data is being processed.

Tamara passed out a handout showing the work accomplished on the biocontrol grant task. Tamara with help from Tyler Jacox, Chris Rhyne, John Husband, Jesse Schroeder, Hannah, and Todd Hagenbuch visited 21 legacy sites where spurge beetles had been released. Of these, 6 had clearly been sprayed with herbicide in the past, and most of these are now occupied primarily with annual weeds such as cheat grass. One additional site appeared to have been recorded with incorrect coordinates, and another was inaccessible (on an island in a pond). The remaining 13 visited sites had both leafy spurge and biocontrol beetles present: 7 in Routt Count (dating from 1991 to 2016) and 6 in Moffat County (dating from 2016 and 2017).

Tamara reported these findings from monitoring these sites with beetles:

1. The local perception that spurge beetles cannot survive in Northwest Colorado's climate and in areas subject to seasonal flooding is incorrect.
2. The leafy spurge infestations in these sites look different from infestations without beetles.
3. Leafy spurge on these sites appears to follow a pattern—the plants are scattered, typically small, but with some high density patches.
4. Native plants populations at these sites are healthy and robust.
5. The success of the beetles at these sites suggests that more biological control beetle releases will be beneficial in combating leafy spurge.

Tamara thought that if this data pattern remains consistent at sites visited next year, the Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project should consider doing the following:

1. Outreach to local landowners explaining what to expect from the management of leafy spurge with beetles vs herbicides.
2. Outreach to the community, with field trips, to introduce the concept of an acceptable level of leafy spurge present but controlled by biological control, vs attempts at total eradication with herbicides.

Tamara wanted everyone to understand that one of the long-term perceptions about the leafy spurge beetles is that the beetles don't move around. However, beetles were found in Little Yampa Canyon, where there have not been released. Pete Williams confirmed that he found beetles during the mapping in LYC.

Ben asked if this raised the importance of biocontrol in the efforts to manage leafy spurge. Tamara thought that there was a need to look at all management options, including chemicals. She is optimistic about the new herbicide that has been used on some of the test plots.

Jeff Comstock asked what the leafy spurge infestations looked like before the beetle releases. Pete explained that the legacy release reports did not include a field for the

entry of this type of data (i.e. density of plants). There was a group discussion, with the suggestion that the original releases would likely only have been made in dense infestations. This would imply that the current appearance of release sites (with only low density infestations) could represent a change over time.

Tamara said that Tyler Jacox had informed her that there is at least one site in the YRSWA (across from the CDOT Rest Area) where there are two 2016 biocontrol releases. Tamara suggested that this site appears to have experienced a decline in spurge cover since 2016. This site will be monitored in the future.

Tamara thought that the funding for the various tasks in the CWCB Grant looks good for next year. There is some flexibility in the Mapping/Biocontrol budget. Agterra will be able to be paid the \$500 fee necessary to continue the mapping and there will not be another expenditure for an additional monitoring and mapping tablet next year.

The CWCB Grant budget will be clearer after the Nov 19th report and the report due on May 19th.

The area where the YRLSP is lacking funds is for outreach to landowners and the community at large. Tamara said that maybe there could be another CWCB Grant request after this grant is completed.

Jesse said that he may have some funds in his education budget, which could be used. Tamara asked Jesse and Jeff Comstock to check with Ray Beck to see if there still is a way to access a possible \$3,000 from Moffat County.

Chris Rhyne asked what is the date for the round of applications for a new CWCB Grant? Tamara said that she would check.

Task 1. Jesse to check with Ray Beck to see if there are any funds available from Moffat County for outreach.

Task 2. Tamara to check to see what are the dates for the next round of CWCB Grants.

Task 3. Tamara to complete the November 19th CWCB Grant report.

Task 4. Chris and Jessica counts will work on the Youth Engagement/Biocontrol efforts next summer as part of the CWCB Grant.

Task 5. Tamara will check to see what is the time frame for new biocontrol releases.

Task 6. Tamara will organize YRLSP members for a trip to the Front Range for the collection of leafy spurge beetles.

Task 7. The YRLSP with the help of Tyler will visit the release site across from the Rest Area to understand the effects of the beetles after release.

Second Discussion: Plans for Leafy Spurge Mapping for 2020

Pete reported that in 2019 the YRLSP mapped approximately 58 miles of the Yampa River riparian corridor, from Hayden to the Duffy Mountain CPW take-out, for leafy spurge infestations. The infestations mapped added up to roughly 198 acres.

Pete presented the group with two versions of a map for just one reach of the Yampa, showing the leafy spurge infestations that had been mapped. He would like to post versions of the leafy spurge maps on the YRLSP website.

1. A map showing all infestations mapped whether from the river or, where landowners had given permission, by walking on land.
2. A map showing all infestations mapped whether from the river or, where landowners had given permission, by walking on land. This map also shows the parcels where permissions were not obtained in brown (where infestations were only mapped from the river).

There followed a group discussion regarding the appropriateness of publishing the leafy spurge infestations where the YRLSP didn't receive permission for mapping.

Tamara stated that we have to be sensitive to the landowners for their various reasons for not giving permission. We should only show where we have permission.

John Husband agreed that we should only publish the infestations where we obtained permissions. He thought that there were other situations where all the information could be used, such as for ground-truthing Chloe's work with satellite imagery.

Jessica and Jeff wanted to know who the targeted audience was.

Jeff wanted to know why we needed to publish the map with parcels. The group pointed out that anyone who is knowledgeable even if there were no parcel lines would know the parcel and the ownership.

Pete explained that he was reticent to remove the infestations from the maps. He thought it important to show the complete infestation for the Yampa River corridor.

Tamara thought it important for grant writing to be able to show a complete infestation map.

Chris said that there were two distinct audiences: 1. The website and 2. Grant applications which are not public. She thought that we could turn this into a positive. Create a good public map and in the future more landowners would give permission and we could fill in the infestations. On the website there could be notes to the effect that there are other infestations that are visible from the river that are not on the map due to landowners not giving permission.

Pete explained that there will be multiple maps in the mapping gallery so one will be able to move along the river corridor to view the infestations.

John recommended that there should be included some background information to the mapping.

Pete thought that for 2020 the YRLSP should continue mapping from Duffy Mt to Dinosaur National Monument.

Ben pointed out that we don't have landowner permissions for this stretch of river and even if we do our permissions forms from last summer expressly say this permission ends December 30, 2019.

John pointed out that this stretch has a lot of public lands and landowners who we have already gotten permissions from. It should not be that difficult to extend the permissions through 2020.

Tamara thought a good goal for mapping in 2020 would be from Duffy Mt to the start of Cross Mt.

Task 9. Pete to review his infestation maps in order to not publish leafy spurge infestations where we didn't get permissions and post to our website

Task 10. Place an agenda item on the December meeting agenda to discuss landowner permissions for mapping in 2020.

Third Discussion: Planning for Maybell Ditch Landowners Meeting

The group discussed the goal of holding a meeting with the Maybell Ditch owners. This meeting had been discussed earlier as a way to outreach to the landowners in Maybell. Kendall thought that this meeting could be held at the Maybell Elementary School. This meeting could be scheduled for January or February.

Kendall Smith, NRCS, has volunteered to meet with Mike Camblin, Maybell Ditch, to arrange a meeting. Tamara said that his meeting is scheduled tomorrow on Thursday, October 10th.

Tamara asked if there were volunteers to organize the larger meeting with the ditch owners. John and Jesse along with Tamara volunteered to meet with Mike Camblin.

Task 11. Tamara and Kendall will organize a planning meeting for the Maybell Ditch owners and report back at the December meeting.

Fourth Discussion: Landowner Outreach

The group discussed the need to update landowners on the CWCB Grant and the 2019 leafy spurge mapping. There also needs to be outreach to landowners on the 2020 leafy spurge infestation mapping plans. The YRLSP will need to create a 2020 Permission Form and outreach to the landowners from Duffy Mt. to Cross Mt.

John volunteered to draft a landowner letter. He thought that this letter should include at least 3 or 4 of the leafy spurge maps created from the 2019 mapping.

Since biocontrol is taking on more importance and the YRLSP is looking for new release sites Tamara said that we need to make sure the landowners check the box for permission for biocontrol.

Task 12. John will draft a 2020 Landowner Letter and present at the December meeting.

Fifth Discussion: Need for Revenue Stream

Ben explained that the YRLSP needs to investigate funding sources for projects not included in the CWCB Grant. He acknowledged the limited ability of the Friends of the Yampa sponsorship of the YRLSP Donation Account to raise funds. He thought that the YRLSP should look at some sort of fundraising effort.

Ben reported on his emails and conversation with Lara Duran, CDA List B Weed Specialist. Ben had explained to Lara that the YRLSP was contemplating putting in a 2020 Weed Fund Application for: Landowner Outreach, Biocontrol releases, and Monitoring of Beetle Release Sites. Lara said that she thought that it would be difficult to obtain funds for these because CDA has an emphasis on chemical treatments. Ben asked Lara why biocontrol is not considered as a legitimate leafy surge treatment. Lara told Ben that CDA supplies most of the beetles and makes releases. She also said that the YRLSP history of performance on past grants would be held against a 2020 application. Lara said that in the 2018 grant the YRLSP had not spent funds allocated for Tepee Draw herbicides. Ben explained that this was due to the drought which made chemical treatments ineffective.

Ben explained to the group his frustrations with CDA for not recognizing the importance of the YRLSP to leafy spurge management in Colorado. The YRLSP should be able to access funding through the Weed Fund. He wondered if the YRLSP needed to request an explanation from Steve Ryder, Director CDA Weed Fund. Ben said that Greg Brown, RC Weed Program, had told him that it was not worth it to apply for CDA Weed Funds.

Tamara was hesitant to antagonize Lara at this time. She counseled that we wait for a more appropriate time.

John agreed with Greg and thought it not worth applying for a CDA Weed Fund Grant.

Tamara recommended that we look at making a follow-up application for CWCB funds. She explained that for the YRLSP 2019/2020 CWCB Grant that the YRLSP had only accessed Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable local funds not the CWCB Statewide funds.

Task 13. See Task 2 above.

Sixth Discussion: Update on YRLSP Website

Pete reported that Cody Perry had transferred ownership of the YRLSP website to him. This was a seamless transfer. And he has continued to make changes to the website. He has updated the information regarding the YRLSP's activities during the summer of 2019 funded by the CWCB Grant, and will be updating the mapping information. He asked for everyone to take a look at the site and get back to him with suggestions.

Ben presented an Invoice dated September 23rd from Cody, Rig to Flip, for approval for payment. The payment will be for Wix Premium Plan yearly cycle and Domain renewal.

Pete said that he had investigated the YRLSP account with Wix and thought that the Domain and Plan charges were not due until March 2020. Ben stated that he has an invoice from Cody that had been paid a few months ago. He said that he would check with Cody to find out what had been paid since the last payment.

Task 14. Ben to check with Cody Perry to find out if the present invoice amounts are charges that may have been paid in the past.

Seventh Discussion: Monitoring of 3-Year Chemical Treatments of West of Hayden and Tepee Draw Infestations

Ben said that he put this item on the agenda because in the YRLSP 10-Year Plan the protocol for treatments states we would treat the West of Hayden site (115 +/- acres) and the Tepee Draw site for three years. He thought that it would be informative for our project to understand the effects of three-year chemical treatments. He recommended that we should contact Troy Osborn (Tepee Draw) and Don Stinton (West of Hayden) to plan a monitoring trip this summer.

Task 15: Jesse and Greg Brown to see if it would be possible to plan to monitor Tepee Draw and West of Hayden

Eight Discussion: Report on Progress for New YRLSP Logo

Tamara said that she had talked with Jeremy at Chaos Inc multiple times. He has always had an excuse and said that he would get the new logo to her. She said that she planned a surprise visit to talk with Jeremy.

Task 16. Tamara to report back on the progress of the new YRLSP logo.

Ninth Discussion: Update on Goals for 2019

Ben passed out a copy of the YRLSP 2019 Goals. He said that the YRLSP has been really successful in accomplishing the 14 Goals that we established for 2019. Only two of the Goals need more follow-up: Goal 10, Reports to Supporting Organizations, and Goal 13, Coordinate with the YWGBRT Stream Management Planning.

Ben thought that a report to the MC and RC Boards of County Commissioners is important. Jeff concurred and said that the Moffat County Commissioners would be receptive to a meeting with representatives of the YRLSP.

Task 17. Tamara after the next CWCB Report will see if she can get on the YWGBRT to give an update on the importance of leafy spurge to Stream Management Planning.

Task 17. Ben to talk to Tim Corrigan to see if a meeting could be scheduled with the Routt County Commissioners

Task 18. Jesse and Jeff will coordinate with Ray Beck to see if there is a time to meet with the Moffat County Commissioners.

Tenth Discussion: Other Items

Emily Spencer reported that she is planning two leafy spurge trips in Dinosaur National Monument for the summer of 2020: One will be a standard mechanical pulling of leafy spurge, and the second will be mechanical pulling combined with a leafy spurge beetle sweep to see if beetles have migrated to DNM.

Tamara suggested that the second trip should be scheduled for the end of June to make sure that the beetles have immigrated.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday December 11th at 10:00am at the Carpenter Ranch