

Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project
2026 Goals

- 1) Collect and/or purchase a minimum of 50,000 leafy spurge biocontrol beetles, with assistance from Colorado Department of Agriculture, Moffat County, Routt County, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, National Park Service, and other partners. A primary source of these beetles will be a collection trip to Lowry Ranch and Cherry Creek State Park, both on the Front Range, during the second week of June.
- 2) Release a minimum of 50,000 leafy spurge biocontrol beetles in the Yampa Basin.
- 3) Continue to monitor and evaluate progress of biocontrol insect establishment at prior release sites to determine when and where the insect population may be robust enough to support local catch-and-release efforts.
- 4) YRLSP partners will host at least two Youth Outreach educational workshops in collaboration with local summer camps.
- 5) In lieu of a Show Me Float, YRLSP partners will host an open to the public event in Maybell while sorting the bugs from the Front Range collection trip. This public outreach event will include a release of bugs on private land near the sorting location.
- 6) Continue updating and revising the YRLSP website, including the interactive map.
- 7) Continue outreach to landowners in Routt and Moffat Counties, including the promotion of the YRLSP website as a resource for the management of leafy spurge, including biocontrol.
- 8) Continue outreach and reports to supporting organizations as needed, including the Routt and Moffat County Boards of Commissioners, the FOTY board, Colorado First Conservation District, Routt County Conservation District, and others.
- 9) Bureau of Land Management to report on the progress of the proposed targeted sheep grazing management of leafy spurge in Tepee Draw. Continue to work with supporting landowners and partners on the implementation of integrated leafy spurge management strategies.
- 10) Dinosaur National Monument to implement Inundative Biological Control Strategy activities, including at least one river trip in the monument for leafy spurge biological control insect releases in mid-June.
- 11) Moffat County Weed and Pest to continue working with supporting landowners and partners on the implementation of integrated leafy spurge management strategies.
- 12) Routt County Weed Program and Western Tree Management to continue to work with Discovery Land Company on integrated management and monitoring of the leafy spurge infestation on the SMV Stetson Ranch and any adjacent lands.