

Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project 2024 Accomplishments

Inundative Biological Control Strategy Grant

- 1) Led by Dinosaur National Monument, the YRLSP finalized a 2024 work plan for the Inundative Biological Control Strategy grant in winter and early spring of 2024.
- 2) The YRLSP established a new financial and administrative relationship with Friends of the Yampa. FOTY now manages expense accounting and budget tracking, as well as communications and meeting coordination, for the YRLSP.

Biological Control in Moffat and Routt Counties

- 1) In total, partners released 110,420 leafy spurge biocontrol insects (more than double the number released in 2023) throughout the Yampa Valley on private land, the Yampa River State Wildlife Area, Little Yampa Canyon, and East Cross Mountain. These insects were obtained from the following sources:
 - a. 72,550 beetles were collected by 13 volunteers and partners in Ashton, Idaho in July.
 - b. 35,050 beetles were purchased from the Colorado Department of Agriculture's insectary
 - c. 2,820 beetles were purchased from Montana
- 2) Thirteen YRLSP volunteers and partners collected an additional 17,400 beetles in Ashton, Idaho to help control other leafy spurge infestations in the state. 10,100 of these beetles were released on the Front Range, and 7,300 were released in Uintah County, UT.

Monitoring

- 1) The YRLSP developed a systematic strategy to monitor insect establishment at previous release sites.
- 2) In 2024, the YRLSP's goal was to conduct monitoring at at least 5 sites, and the YRLSP successfully monitored 13 sites this year.

Outreach and Education

- 1) YRLSP volunteers and partners organized the 2024 Show Me Float, held on June 14th from Dorsey Beach to Pebble Beach. There were 14 participants. Activities included the release of 5,000 beetles on two different private properties along the Yampa River.
- 2) YRLSP partners organized the 2024 Youth Outreach educational workshops, held over two days on the Yampa River State Wildlife Area. Twenty-one kids participated

from Totally Kids Camp of Hayden and Yampatika Environmental Camp. Presenters included representatives from Colorado Department of Agriculture, Routt County Weed Program, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Natural Resource Conservation Service. The kids learned about biocontrol and participated in leafy spurge beetle releases.

- 3) An article detailing the YRLSP's trip to Ashton, ID to collect biocontrol insects was published in both the Steamboat Pilot and the Craig Daily Press in July.

Community Presentations

YRLSP members attended and/or updated the following organizations and events:

- 1) Four YRLSP partners presented to the Routt County Board of Commissioners on October 28th.
- 2) Three YRLSP partners presented to the Moffat County Board of Commissioners on December 10th.
- 3) YRLSP partners had an information table at Friends of the Yampa's State of the Yampa event on May 30th.
- 4) YRLSP partners had an information table at the Colorado First Conservation District's annual landowners meeting on February 20th.

Website Administration

- 1) The YRLSP website continues to be regularly updated with information about YRLSP sponsored events, and the 2024 biocontrol release and monitoring data has been added to the Interactive Map and GIS Data pages (for public download).