



YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

“... working together to establish an effective program of integrated management for leafy spurge...”

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT 2024 GOALS

1. YRLSP volunteers will work with partners: NPS/Dinosaur National Monument, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Routt County Weed Program, Moffat County Weed and Pest, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Friends of the Yampa (FOTY), Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA), and others to finalize a Work Plan for the Inundative Biological Control Strategy Grant. This grant, part of a larger NPS Colorado River Invasive Species package funded with Inflation Reduction Act dollars, provides over \$500,000 to be administered through Dinosaur National Monument for regional Yampa and Green River biological control projects during the years 2024 through 2030. (Tamara, Pete, John, Emily S.)
2. Establish a new financial relationship with Friends of the Yampa, where FOTY creates a line item in their annual budget for the annual revenue and expenses of the YRLSP. The YRLSP will submit an annual budget; FOTY will collect and hold funds from YRLSP donations and other revenues, and pay YRLSP expense invoices. (Lindsey, Emily Burke)
3. Work with FOTY staff to establish new administrative protocols for YRLSP meetings, the keeping of minutes, and any necessary communications for the accomplishment of YRLSP's goals and responsibilities. (Emily B.)
4. Collect and/or purchase a minimum of 50,000 (up to 100,000) leafy spurge beetles, with assistance from CDA, Moffat County, Routt County, CPW, NPS, Idaho BLM, and other partners. A primary source of these beetles will be an Idaho collection trip made by YRLSP volunteers (to be made in the period from the third week of June to the second week of July). The Idaho collection activities will be a 7-day commitment, five days for the trip to Idaho and an additional two days for the release of beetles during an overnight raft trip through the Little Yampa Canyon. (Tamara, Emily S., volunteers)

5. Release a minimum of 50,000 leafy spurge beetles in the Yampa Basin, bringing the total YRLSP releases up to approximately 175,000 since 2019. Priority will be given to releases on the Yampa River State Wildlife Area (YRSWA), the Little Yampa Canyon, and on properties of interested landowners, including J Quarter Circle Ranch (Bruce Johnson) and additional landowners identified by Moffat County Weed and Pest and Routt County Weed Program. (Tamara, Chris, Jesse, Tiffany, Biocontrol Volunteers)
6. Create a modified biocontrol monitoring protocol in order to facilitate efficient monitoring in concert with the large-scale releases of leafy spurge beetles under the Inundative Biological Control Strategy. (Emily S, Pete, NPS staff)
7. Develop a systematic monitoring strategy to track biocontrol establishment over time across the Yampa Basin. A table of release sites will be created with recommendations for a continuing visit/monitoring rotation schedule. (Tamara)
8. Continue to monitor and evaluate progress of biocontrol insect establishment at prior release sites on the YRSWA, to determine when the insect population will be robust enough to support a public biocontrol outreach event, and eventually a local catch-and-release event. (Tamara, CPW)
9. YRLSP Partners Laurel Deitch (NRCS, Craig); Shane Talvacchio (CPW); Megan Stetson (CSU Extension, Craig); Chris Rhyne (BLM), John Kaltenbach (CDA), Reece Wells (Yampatika) and adult leaders of the Boy's and Girl's Clubs to continue the Youth Outreach educational workshops.
10. Organize a Ninth Annual Show Me Float in June, for a time not to conflict with the Idaho collection trip. (John, Ben)
11. Continue updating and revising the YRLSP website (yampariverleafyspurgeproject.com), including additional information regarding the Inundative Biological Control Strategy Grant.
12. Continue outreach to landowners in Routt and Moffat Counties, including the promotion of the YRLSP website as a resource for the the management of leafy spurge, including biological control. (Pete, Tiffany, Jesse, Group)
13. Update the Moffat and Routt Boards of County Commissioners regarding the Inundative Biological Control Strategy Grant, and keep them advised as to the annual financial needs of the YRLSP. (Tamara, John, Ben, Emily S)

14. Continue outreach and reports to supporting organizations, including the FOTY Board (Tamara), FOTY Yampa River Fest (Ben), Colorado First Conservation District (John, Laurel), Routt County Conservation District (Tiffany), Yampa River Integrated Water Management Plan (Emily B.) and the Yampa River System Legacy Partnership (John).

15. 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. (Chris)

16. 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 2024 (late June–early July), and one or two trips for Russian knapweed biological control insect releases (May). (Emily S)

17. Moffat County Weed and Pest to continue working with supporting landowners and partners on the implementation of integrated leafy spurge management strategies. (Jesse)

18. Routt County Weed Program to continue to monitor the management of the leafy spurge infestation on the SMV Stetson Ranch, LLC, and adjacent lands near Stagecoach Reservoir. Continue to work with supporting landowners and partners on the implementation of integrated leafy spurge management strategies. (Tiffany)