

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT  
MEETING**

**Thursday September 14, 2017  
1:00pm at the Carpenter, Ranch**

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions (5 minutes)
2. Review Agenda (5 minutes)
3. Updates:(30 minutes)
  - a. Final Statement of Work for 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant (Greg)
  - b. Leafy Spurge treatment Plans for 2017: Routt County, Moffat County, CPW, BLM, and NPS
  - c. New treatment approaches and/or chemicals
  - d. Jodi Elam Project
  - e. Other
4. Report on YRLSP grant application to the YampaGreenWhite Basin Roundtable requesting funds for treatment of leafy spurge. (30 minutes) (Tim, Ray, John, and Ben)
5. Organizational Check (30 minutes)
  - a. Where are we going?
  - b. What do we need?
6. Future Funding Discussions (Group) (20 minutes)
  - a. 2017 HPP Grant (Kris Middendorf has volunteered)
  - b. Colorado Water Conservation Board Grant (Nicole Seltzer has volunteered)
  - c. Tamarisk Coalition
  - d. Private Foundations
  - e. Yampa River Water Fund
  - f. Others

Next Scheduled Meeting: Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup>

Adjourn (3:00)

Meeting Packet:

1. Agenda
2. Final Statement of Work for the 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant
3. Grant Application to the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable

# **YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT**

**September 14, 2017 1:00pm**

**Carpenter Ranch**

**Draft Meeting Notes**

## **Attendees:**

### **Executive Committee Present**

Ray Beck	MC Commissioner
Jessica Counts	MC Weed and Pest Manager
Barry Castagnasso	Routt County Land Owner
Tamara Naumann	Dinosaur National Monument
Ben Beall	Yampa River System Legacy Partnership
Kris Middeldorf	Colorado Parks and Wildlife

### **Advisory Committee**

Marsha Daughenbaugh	Yampa Valley Community Ag Alliance
Anne Sullivan	YRLSP Website Coordinator

### **Guests**

Jodi Elam	Western State University
Lara Duran	CO Department of Ag, List "B" Weed Specialist (on phone)

Ben Beall opened the meeting at around 1:05pm. Ben asked everyone to introduce themselves due to the fact that Jodi Elam, Western State University grad student, was present. Jodi will be doing her Master Thesis on the YRLSP.

Ben welcomed Lara Duran who was on the speaker phone and had asked if she could listen in on the meeting.

Ben asked if there were any additions for the agenda. No additions or changes.

### **Meeting Discussions:**

**First Discussion: Update on the Final Statement of Work for the 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant.**

Ben said that he had talked to Greg Brown, RC Weed Program Supervisor and Greg had said that he could not make the meeting to a field trip. Greg had finalized the SOW with Lara. Ben and Greg had agreed that the Final SOW of work followed closely what the YRLSP had discussed at earlier meetings.

Jessica Counts noted that the SOW states that treatment and monitoring will be done within ½ mile of the Yampa River. Ben pointed out that later in the SOW the proposed treatment in Tepee Draw is described so that the ½ mile must have been overlooked when the final was written.

The Group questioned the time periods or submittal of the required Quarterly Reports to CDA. The first quarter ends in September and the YRLSP only received the final SOW on 9/01/2017. Ben asked Lara for clarification. She stated that the first report will be due in December.

There was a discussion if the 2017 Show Me Float which took place July 8<sup>th</sup> could be used for fulfilling the requirement for a public field trip. Lara said that since it came before the date of the SOW it would be inappropriate to use. The Group thought that a 2018 Float should be planned for June so that it could be included.

Ben asked Jessica if the SOW budget for the \$10,000 grant would work for the second year of treatment in Tepee Draw. Jessica said that the budget laid out in the SOW would work.

The Group agreed that all YRLSP partner work spent on leafy spurge from September should be documented and turned into Ben by December 15<sup>th</sup> so that the December Report could be created.

**Task 1: YRLSP partners will turn into Ben all work to be used for 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant matches by December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Second Discussion: YRLSP Partner Leafy Spurge Treatment Plans for 2017**

Jessica said that she had made a tour of the sites in Tepee Draw that had been treated with CDA funds from the 2016 Grant. She had planned on doing fall treatments but that everything was so dry that treatments at this time would be inappropriate. She intends to treat Tepee Draw in the spring.

Jessica related to the group that she and John Husband had taken a tour of Little Yampa Canyon and observed patches of leafy spurge. But the spurge had been difficult to see because of the dryness. She is considering treating leafy spurge in LYC. She observed Scotch Thistle and is considering asking CDA for funds for glyphosate to treat the Scotch thistle and the leafy spurge.

Ben asked Jessica if some of the \$80,000 that BLM gives to MC Weed and Pest could be used in LYC. Jessica thought very little due to the fact that most of the BLM funds go toward treating BLM roads.

Kris Middledorf stated that CPW plans to continue with their annual treatment program on the State Wildlife Area. Tyler Wilcox may even try some goats.

Kris asked the Group if there was a way to mark the areas where beetles had been released so as to not have the problem again of spraying the leafy spurge in the nurseries. The Group made some suggestions about painted wood stakes and flagging. The question came up if there was a standard marking procedure advocated by the Colorado Insectary in Palisade.

Tamara Naumann said that NPS had thought that they had completed a good set of maps for the leafy spurge infestations in Dinosaur for the 2016 CDA Grant. However this summer the river rangers had discovered multiple new patches of leafy spurge. When the summer season is over she will update the Dinosaur maps.

Tamara related that even though the leafy spurge infestations are expanding in the Monument. There has been some success. In Tepee Draw where in years past the Weed Warrior Program had hand pulled up to six full seed bags of leafy spurge every year this year there was only ½ a bag of leafy spurge.

There followed a discussion concerning the benefit of hand pulling leafy spurge. Tamara thought that due to the thinness of the soil in Tepee Draw that hand pulling had been successful in controlling the infestation. Whereas in older infestations with established root systems it probably would work.

If a hand pulling strategy could be developed for example in LYC Anne Sullivan and Marsha Daughenbaugh thought that the use of volunteers would work. Tamara related how difficult it is to even get her river rangers excited about pulling leafy spurge. Volunteers would need not only supervision to pull leafy spurge but motivation even just to see the leafy spurge.

**Task 2: The YRLSP needs to develop a standard for marking the leafy spurge beetle nurseries. Need to talk to John Kaltenbach, CDA Insectary, to see if there is already a marking procedure. Barry can either you or Kris do this?**

**Task 3: Need to contact John Kaltenbach to get on the schedule for beetle releases for summer 2018. Should get at least 5 more sites.**

**Third Discussion: New Leafy Spurge Treatment Approaches or Chemicals**

Barry Castagnasso said that there is a new chemical called Escort that can kill the leafy spurge seeds. He had also seen a report where cropping out leafy spurge was not effective.

Jodi Elam said that in her research that there have been developed two fungi soil additives that may be effective. In the discussion it was thought that these additives do not have EPA approval. Lara thought that one additive had gained approval and she would check and send out an email which could be shared. The question that needs to be answered is fungi treatment successful for leafy spurge? It is a form of biocontrol and it is known that the soil composition in Eurasia is different from the Americas and they do not have a leafy spurge problem.

#### **Fourth Discussion: Jodi Elam Project**

##### **Jodi described her master's project in two parts:**

1. A Historical Overview of the local leafy spurge problem to be accomplished through interviews and surveys. This will also include research on applicable treatments.
2. A Recommendation for an Integrated Management Plan to include: the four best strategies to include biocontrol for the Yampa River Riparian Zone; and the establishment of four plots where these treatments can be accomplished and monitored.

Jodi is hoping that another student would take on the project and follow up and monitor on the success of the treatments on the 4 plots.

#### **Fifth Discussion: Report on the YRLSP Grant Application to the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable (YWGRT)**

Ben started out by thanking Ray Beck and Tim Corrigan who made the presentation to the YWGRT. YRLSP members also present at the YWGRT meeting were Tamara Naumann, John Husband, Marsha, and Ben. Ben stated that at first he was disappointed in the meeting but considered the presentation a success with the positive 8 to 7 vote of the YWGRT members for the YRLSP to proceed to a second presentation. Ben thought that the YRLSP should proceed to put together the second round grant application at the YWGRT meeting in November.

Marsha agreed that the YRLSP should go for it. She thought that the YWGRT process was flawed. This was supposed to be a preliminary presentation for an approval to move forward. She thought the complaints by the YWGRT members that the YRLSP presentation didn't show match or a budget were out of place. However in a second presentation the YRLSP needs to better show a budget with its matching funds.

Tamara gave kudos to everyone who stepped forward to make the presentation. She thought the comment that the YRLSP needed to be asking for \$1,000,000 instead of \$100,000 to accomplish anything, was correct. However the YRLSP can't wait for \$1,000,000. The YWGRT was a good place to start. She recommended that we wait until January. The YRLSP needs to show some skin in the game. She offered that after November her schedule would be different and she could help with the grant application.

Kris agreed with Tamara that the leafy spurge infestation needs to be tied to water.

Ray Beck also thought that the positive vote even though it was disappointing presented us with another opportunity. He complained about the YWGRT grant application process. It had been unclear what were the criteria and asks needed. He thought that the YRLSP had been short changed when the chair cut off the presentation. He stated that in the next round we needed to do a better job with: 1. The position of Routt and Moffat Counties; 2. Need to better show how bad the infestations are; 3. Need to get Letters of Interest and Letters of Support; 4. Show a fully integrated budget; 5. Clear up any issues the might arise with using the Friends of the Yampa as the grant fiscal agent; and 6. Create a power point presentation. Ray recommended that the YRLSP wait until January for the second presentation.

John stated that he was disappointed that his part of the presentation was cut off. He thought that he could have cleared up some of the issues raised by Tim and Ray in their presentations.

In a group discussion it was decided that it would be better to wait until January to make the second presentation.

**Task 4: Marsha to check with the YWGRT Application Committee to see what application process and forms are necessary for the second round presentation.**

**Task 5: Marsh will notify the YWGRT that the YRLSP would like to get on the January agenda for the second round presentation.**

**Task 6: Ben to check dates/application process of the YWGRT and the CWCB to understand how they work together on the Water Reserve Funds applications.**

**Task 6: YRLSP partners will turn into Ben in kind and 2017 funds spent to be used for YWGRT application match by December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Sixth Discussion: 2017 HPP Grant**

Kris is still willing to proceed with a 2018 HPP grant application. However he sees that there may be gaps in the YRLSP that would preclude an application at this time. The HPP grant is a large grant for \$250,000 for landscape scale project. He questioned if the YRLSP was ready to present the leafy spurge project as a project that would fit the criteria for the HPP grant. Kris suggested that we place the HPP Grant on the agenda for the meeting in January.

**Task 7: Kris will check on the application process for the HPP Grant.**

Next Meeting: November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Meeting Adjourned: 3:15