

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
MEETING**

**Tuesday, November 29, 2016
1:00pm at the Carpenter, Ranch**

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Review Agenda
3. Review of Second Iteration of 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant Application (Ben Beall)
 - a. Establish of Review Committee
 - b. Meetings with BCCs and support letters
4. Presentation and Discussion of YRLSP PR/Info Video (Cody Perry, Rig-to-Flip)
 - a. Report on recent presentations and upcoming schedule
 - b. Name/Address/Web Site
 - c. Rig-to-Flip work invoices
 - d. Authorization to request up to \$950 in December invoice to CDA Weed Fund
5. Report from Data/Private Landowner Coordinator
6. Discussion with Northwest Colorado SLB regarding access to SLB Properties for Leafy Spurge Treatments (Jerod Smith)
7. Project Reports
 - a. In-kind Match Report Sheet (Jessica Counts)
 - b. In-kind Matches for 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant (Group)
 - c. Mapping (Group)
 - d. Education Program/Leafy Spurge Sheet (Marsha Daughenbaugh not able to attend)
 - e. Leafy Spurge Conference/Forum (Group)

f. YRLSP 10-year Plan (Greg Brown)

g. HPP Funding Possibilities (Kris Middeldorf)

8. Other Updates/Notices/Events (Meeting Participants)

9. Next Meeting: Set a standard monthly meeting date.

Adjourn (3:30)

Packet:

1. Agenda
2. 2017 CDA Weed Fund Application, second iteration
3. October Meeting Task List
- 4 In-Kind-Match Sheet

YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT

November 29, 2016, 1:00pm
Carpenter Ranch
Draft Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Executive Committee

Tim Corrigan	Routt County Commissioner	Excused
Chuck Grobe	Moffat County Commissioner	Absent
John Kinkaid	Alternate MC Commissioner	Absent
Greg Brown	RC Weed Program Supervisor	
Jessica Counts	MC Pest and Weed Manager	
Wayne Counts	Colorado First Conservation Dist	Absent
Barry Castagnasso	Routt County Land Owner	
Chris Rhyne	Little Snake BLM	
Tamara Naumann	Dinosaur National Monument	
Kris Middledorf	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	
Tyler Jacox	Alternate CPW	Absent
Ben Beall	Yampa River System Legacy Partnership	
John Husband	Northwest Colorado Citizen Representative	

Advisory Committee

Todd Hagenbuch	CSU Routt County Extension	Excused
Christine Shook	Natural Resources Conservation Services	
Marsha Daughenbaugh	Yampa Valley Community Ag Alliance	Excused
Jerod Smith	Colorado State Land Board	
Geoff Blakeslee	The Nature Conservancy	
Rusty Lloyd	The Tamarisk Coalition	Absent
David Smith	University of the Redlands	Absent

Guests

Cody Perry, Rig-to-Flip
Troy Osborn, Osborn Industries
Katie_____, Osborn Industries

Ben Beall opened the meeting by thanking everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves because we had some new faces.

Ben asked if there were any additions for the agenda. There were none. He asked the group about the Notes and Task List that he sends out after each meeting. Were they helpful? Did everyone want him to continue? The group thought that they were helpful.

Meeting Discussions:

First Discussion Review of Second Iteration of 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant Application:

Ben opened the discussion by explaining that the format is following the suggestions of CDA and the format from the 2016 grant application. The document in the meeting packet is just a part of the application. Ben stated that he had talked to Steve Ryder, CDA Weed Fund, and he had said that the application process was not set but it would be similar to 2016 with a similar application deadline. The 2016 application deadline was January 11th.

Ben reviewed the draft grant application asking for comments/suggestion for each item.

Objective A: The group agreed that the YRLSP would continue refining our mapping

Objective B: The group agreed that the YRLSP needs to contract with a CSU grad student for research in the riparian zone.

Ben relayed that Todd Hagenbuch had been in contact with a CSU grad student that was interested.

Tamara Naumann questioned the timing for a grad student. If the grant funds don't come in until May then we can't expect a grad student until fall. Tamara thought it important that we talk to the student's advisor and that CSU may have some "special funds" for grad student research.

Jessica Counts asked if the moneys for a grad student could be used over a longer time period.

Greg Brown and Jessica stated that we need to emphasize that the grad student research would be for an Integrated Management approach to leafy spurge.

There were suggestions for other funding sources and assistance:

The Tamarisk Coalition (Greg)

NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant (Christine Shook)

CO Native Plant Society for follow-up funding (Tamara)

Healthy Habitats, the tax check-off for weeds with funds going to CDA (Greg)

Cody Perry asked to group if he had understood correctly that the YRLSP was looking for research in three areas:

1. Treatments
2. By a grad student
3. For chemicals in the riparian area

Greg answered that the YRLSP is looking for research to find an integrated approach to leafy spurge in riparian areas.

Task 1: Greg to talk with Todd to find out more about the grad student contact.

Task 2: Greg and Jessica will discuss the YRLSP request for a grad student with their CSU contacts at the CO Weed Managers Association meeting and find out how much it would cost.

Task 3: Greg will contact the Tamarisk Coalition and see if he can set a meeting where he can show the YRLSP video and interest them in the YRLSP.

Task 4: Everyone to check-off Healthy Habitats on their CO tax returns.

Objective C: The group agreed that the YRLSP should request funds to pay for the continuing work of a Private Landowner Coordinator.

Task 5: Barry Castagnasso to document his expenses to date and estimate the amount to be requested in the 2017 grant application to fulfill his job description.

Task 6: Barry to review Objective C for wording etc. and get suggested changes to Ben as soon as possible with a deadline of December 15th.

Objective D: The group agreed to include a treatment incentive program for private property owners in the YRLSP grant application.

Jessica stated that Moffat County will continue with their establish incentive cost share program.

Jessica, Christina Rhyne, and Greg suggested that the wording in Objective D be changed to the following:

Create an incentive program for private property owners where the private property owners and local agencies, RC Weed Program, MC Weed and Pest, and NRCS through the EQIP Program, work together to fund treatment in the riparian areas of the

Yampa River. This incentive program will include a cost share process for treatment of leafy spurge in the Focus Area or on lands adjacent to the Focus Area.

Task 7: Ben to change the wording in Objective D.

Objective E: The group agreed that the YRLSP needs to continue to monitor the leafy spurge beetle nursery sites.

Jessica suggested that since there are more than 2 sites, the wording needs to be changed to include all sites. There may be up to 6 sites in the Management Plan Area.

Geoff Blakeslee asked who was to monitor the sites. It was a consensus that the agency responsible for establishing the site should not only monitor but also check to see if their site was still viable.

In the meeting's discussions concerning leafy spurge flea beetles, Christina questioned how does the YRLSP define success; Barry said that there is a test plot on CPW land that needs to be reviewed; and Jessica agreed that the YRLSP needs to review/evaluate all old release sites.

Tamara suggested that the Measurable Objective be changed to read:

Measurable Objective: CPW, RC Weed Program, and MC Weed and Pest will organize a program to study and harvest, when appropriate, the leafy spurge flea beetles from established leafy spurge beetle nursery sites. It is estimated that it may be two years before these beetles will be ready for release to new sites. The YRLSP will pursue additional opportunities from the CO Insectery and private sources to establish new leafy spurge flea beetle nurseries.

Task 8: Ben to change the wording in Objective F as per suggestions.

Task 9: Agencies who have established sites will monitor the sites and note the characteristics of their sites.

Task 10: The agencies responsible for flea beetle nursery sites will include the sites with information regarding these sites in the YRLSP mapping project.

Objective F: Commence Leafy Spurge Treatments in the Focus Area or on Adjacent Lands

Ben began this Objective discussion with pointing out that there is a major change in this Objective since the first iteration of the Draft CDA Weed Fund Grant application. The suggestion from the last meeting was to combine all treatment objectives into one section. There are four parts to this Objective. This will be a big part of the funds requested.

The first part is for the YRLSP to contract with a private applicator to treat leafy spurge. Ben introduced Troy Osborn of Osborn Industries, a private applicator, invited by Jessica to present his ideas on how he might treat leafy spurge in the riparian areas and assist the YRLSP.

Troy explained that he had been researching equipment to outfit a raft for spraying leafy spurge from the river i.e. a custom sprayer and a boat to carry a 4 wheeler. He thought that with his skills as a mechanic he could accomplish this.

Cody said that he would donate a raft frame and thought that the you could treat leafy spurge for about 1/3 of the year from a raft.

Tamara suggested that Troy talk to Sparky Tabor from BLM Grand Junction who has put together a raft for spraying.

Tamara questioned the ability of pumping out of the river to mix chemicals. Troy said that it is done all the time. You just need to have a filter.

John Husband noted that high water was not the time to treat leafy spurge on the Yampa and maybe a John Boat would be better for lower water when a raft would be too big. The fall seems to be the best time to treat leafy spurge and then it is low water.

Troy asked the group about how much of the leafy spurge infestation has been mapped? He thought that if access points were identified that the infestations could be treated from the land.

Greg said that there are ready access available from the land and that some o the infestations could be treated this year.

Jessica thought that we might be able to look at aerials to see points of access.

Tamara said that if we were to treat with chemicals that maybe we should identify appropriate sections of the Yampa.

The group thought that Barry Castagnasso in his conversations with landowners should be able to get access to the river for treatment.

Ben pointed out that each of the four sections of this Objective needs to have an amount of funds requested. He thought that maybe the most efficient way to address this Objective would be for each agency to review and rework the appropriate section

for wording; amount of funds needed from grant; and amount of funds spent normally for match.

The group expressed various ideas for the Measurable Objective for this Objective:

How do we quantify what the YRLSP is doing? Is it acres? (Geoff)

There is a need for a longer term approach for weeds because it gets harder and harder as one treats weeds. Success means progress. (Tamara)

Greg thought that maybe the leafy spurge could be treated and measured by categories.

The group established a committee to review and be responsible for the submittal of the 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant application. John, Greg, and Ben volunteered for this committee.

Ben pointed out that the YRLSP will need new letters of support from the Routt County and Moffat County Boards of County Commissioners for the 2017 grant application. Jessica and Greg said that they would check to see what process is necessary for these letters of support.

The group thought it necessary to develop Bullet Points of 2016 accomplishments.

Task 11: Routt County Weed Program, Moffat County Weed and Pest Management, CPW, Colorado SLB, BLM, and Dinosaur National Monument will review Objective F especially their agency sections and suggest appropriate wording; amount of funds from the grant; and match for inclusion in the grant application. These suggestions will be returned to Ben as soon as possible with a deadline of December 15th.

Task 12: Barry will discuss access points to the riparian leafy spurge infestations in his conversations with the private landowners and attempt to obtain access for the YRLSP.

Task 13: Ben will put together a revised Objective F upon receipt of suggested new wording (See Task 11 above) and email out for comments and approval.

Task 14: The Grant Review Committee (John, Greg, and Ben) will be responsible for the completion and submittal of the 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant application.

Task 15: Jessica will meet with the Moffat County Board of County Commissioners and obtain a Letter of Support for the 2017 Grant application.

Task 16 Greg will meet with the Routt County Board of County Commissioners and obtain a Letter of Support for the 2017 Grant application.

Task 17: Ben will development a Bullet List of 2016 accomplishments for Jessica and Greg to use in obtaining their letters of support.

Objective G: The group agreed that the YRLSP needs an integrated treatment program and that sheep grazing should be a part of this treatment.

Task 18: Greg will investigate whether there is a sheep producer that will be willing to provide sheep and is knowledgeable in regards to targeted grazing of sheep for leafy spurge.

Task 19: All the partners in the YRLSP will get letters of support from their organization that the YRLSP can include in the 201 CDA Weed Fund Grant application.

Objective J: The group agreed that the YRSP CDA Grant application should have a PR program including the YRLSP PR/Info video and printed material.

Second Discussion YRLSP PR/Info Video

Ben introduced Cody as the producer of the YRLSP PR/Info video. The video is the final cut as approved by the Video Committee (Ben, Greg, and Marsha Daughenbaugh). Ben passed out a list of comments that had been generated from showings to other groups and individuals. The main comments had to do with: points of contact (names, addresses etc.); creating more urgency; and place for donations.

Ben and Cody showed the video which can be viewed through [Vimeo.com/189478934](https://vimeo.com/189478934).

After the group viewed the video these were their comments:

Tamara said that she had had a conversation with Kent Vertrees, Friends of the Yampa, who said that the FOY would be able to process any donations received by the YRLSP. Christina asked if we needed to have a place in the video for donations.

The group discussed our current fiscal partner, CO First Conservation District. They are just not setup to process \$5 donations etc. CO First who stepped up to the fiscal agent for the 2016 CDA Grant should remain as fiscal agent for the 2017 CDA Grant. There may be a time in the future where the YRLSP could decide to pursue another fiscal agent.

Cody explained to the group that from his experience that PR and asking for donations were different and the types of viewing were different i.e. political entities and just interested citizens. He recommended that the YRLSP should think about setting up a

web site which would be for further information and also a place where interested parties could make donations.

Cody suggested that the YRLSP keep showing the video to select targeted groups but plan for an event in the Spring where the YRLSP video could be rolled out for the general public.

These groups were mentioned for scheduling video showings:

Friends of the Yampa (Ben and Cody)
The Tamarisk Coalition (Greg)
CO First Conservation District Annual Meeting (Jessica)
The Yampa/Green/White Roundtable (Marsha, Geoff)

The group like the idea of setting up a web site and asked Cody how much it would cost. Cody said that it would cost around \$300. This web information could be placed at the end of the video.

The group also discussed the necessity of those who are showing the video to be able to expand on the objectives in the video and also give the necessary information for those who would like to support the YRLSP.

The group agreed that the contact information for the video should be the RC and MC Weed Programs including names, addresses and phone numbers of Jessica and Greg. These could be changed easily if necessary.

Also the group directed Cody to use text at the beginning of the video to emphasize the Call to Action which will also beat the conclusion.

Ben presented Rig-To-Flip's invoices (\$850) for work accomplished, not being paid with Taylor Grazing Act funds, to get confirmation from the group to include these costs in the December invoice for the 2016 CDA grant.

Greg said that he thought that he could pay Rig-to-Flip the \$850 and the cost of setting up the web page out of his education line item in his budget.

Task 20: The Video Committee (Greg, Marsha, and Ben) will coordinate with Cody to place the contact info, web page info, and the text for Call to Action in the appropriate locations in the video.

Task 21: Greg to submit invoices for payment to Rig-to-Flip for work accomplished (\$850 Invoice #6) and for payment for creating a YRLSP web page.

Task 22: The YRLSP partners should schedule to show the YRLSP PR/Info Video to the following groups: Friends of the Yampa (Ben and Cody), The Tamarisk

Coalition (Greg), The Yampa/Green/White Roundtable (Marsha, Geoff) and CO First Conservation District Annual Meeting (Jessica)

Third Discussion: Report for the Data/Private Landowner Coordinator

Barry said that he has been talking with both landowners along the Yampa River. He shared with the group the frustration that he has heard from the landowners, “there is a lot of talking but nothing is getting done”. He explained that it is difficult to talk about the benefits of an organized 10-year program.

He said that he is working on the landowner letter and completing the list of landowners adjacent to the Yampa. He thought that getting access would not be a problem. From a question from Jessica, he said that it is not difficult to get a list of landowners from Moffat County because there just aren't that many.

Jessica said that Moffat County has an access permit that they use for mosquito control. A form for permitting access would be better than a verbal commitment. Jessica will email a copy to Barry.

Barry sees that he will be working more with the entry of the mapping data.

Ben asked Barry if he had an invoice for his hours worked. His experience and hours will be important in figuring out a request for funds for the Data/Landowner Coordinator for the 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant application. Barry said that he hadn't spent that many hours but would get his hours in an invoice and estimate what he thought he would spend next year. He agreed to get this information to Ben before December 15th.

Task 23: Barry to complete his landowner list and mail the First YRLSP Landowner Letter to Routt and Moffat County landowners with lands adjacent to the Yampa River.

Task 24: Jessica will email the Moffat County landowner access permit to Barry so he can modify it for access agreements for leafy spurge treatments.

Task 25: Barry to communicate with Ben concerning his hours worked so his payment can be included in the December CDA Grant invoice. This will be done as soon as possible but not later than December 15th. See Task 5

Task 26: Barry to estimate his hours for the 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant application and communicate that information to Ben as soon as possible but not later than December 15th. See Task 5

Fourth Discussion: Discussion with Northwest Colorado SLB regarding access to SLB Properties for Leafy Spurge Treatments.

Ben thanked Jerod Smith for attending the meeting and explained that at the October meeting the group had discussed the issue of access to SLB properties for the treatment of leafy spurge. At that time it was not clear what the SLB process was. Jerod explained that the SLB has a Temporary Access Form which is recorded. This is a fairly easy form to complete and then all it takes is to contact the landowner.

Jessica said that her concerns were with the leasees. Jerod said that the SLB would contact the leasees and said that through the lease contract with the SLB that the leasee has an obligation to address weeds. The SLB has a policy to visit each parcel at least once every five years. Because of the number of parcels this may be difficult.

Barry wondered what would be the best way to contact leases. Jerod thought that with easily attained information i.e. assessor's data that an Information Request could be requested of the SLB for contact information.

Jessica asked about SLB funding for leafy spurge treatments. Jerod said that the SLB has a Statewide Fund to be used for weeds on a cost share basis. He thought that there are some left over funds in this pot.

Ben asked Jerod about the possibility of leafy spurge on the large SLB parcel along the Yampa west of Hayden. Jerod wasn't aware of any infestations but since this parcel is on the Yampa just across from the Yampa River State Park just upstream from the large infestations on the Yampa there may be some leafy spurge.

Fifth Discussion: Projects Reports

1. In-kind Match Report Sheet and In-kind Matches for 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant December invoicing.

Ben handed out the In-kind Match report sheet sent out to the group by Jessica and a sheet showing dates of YRLSP meetings. Ben stated that he had talked with Patty York, CDA, and she agreed that all partner YRLSP administrative expenses could be used for match starting in January 2016, 3 months before notification of grant approval.

These In-kind Match expenses will be included under one of these categories:

- a. Partner Coordination and Project Oversight
- b. YRLSP Partner Participation at Meetings

Group members suggested that there needs to be another column on Jessica's sheet expenses in dollars. Jessica agreed to create another sheet.

Task 27: Jessica to create another In-kind Match sheet to include: 1. Partner Expenses for Project Coordination and Project Oversight; and 2. Partner Meeting

Hours. Jessica will email out to Ben and he will email to all partners in order to complete as soon as possible or at least by December 15th.

Task 28: Partners when sending in In-Kind Match sheet will note on this sheet estimated In-kind Matches for 2017 CDA Grant.

2. Mapping

Greg noted that he had received an email from Patty York, CDA, letting him know that she had received Tamara's leafy spurge mapping for Dinosaur National Monument and these had been compatible with the CDA mapping. Greg said that this could be a model for the YRLSP mapping.

Task 29: All partners will send their mapping data to Greg and Barry will assist in getting this into the leafy spurge "Red Blog" infestation map as per the 2016 CDA Grant.

3. Education Program and Events

The group confirmed the importance of using the video and information sheet to get out the word concerning the YRLSP and its work. The YRLSP partners should be aware of events in their communities for getting on these agendas for making presentations.

Tamara recommended that the YRLSP needs a standardized log sheet to record these events and who was in attendance.

The group confirmed that a YRLSP event should be organized, one for Moffat County and another for Routt County as a "kickoff" in the Spring.

Task 30: Tamara to create an event "log sheet" for use at events and email to all partners.

Task 31: The YRLSP partners should schedule to show the YRLSP PR/Info Video to the following groups: Friends of the Yampa (Ben and Cody), The Tamarisk Coalition (Greg), The Yampa/Green/White Roundtable (Marsha, Geoff) and CO First Conservation District Annual Meeting (Jessica) See Task 22

Task 32: The YRLSP should organize community events, one in Moffat County and another in Routt County to get out the word concerning the YRLSP.

4. YRLSP 10-year Plan

Task 33: Greg to update the 10-year Plan as per the Objective in the 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant.

5. HPP Funding

Kris Middledorf gave a presentation on the CPW statewide HPP fund. He said that there is \$100,000 available for landscape type projects for government agencies and landowners. In order to access these funds the project needs an agricultural nexus. Kris didn't think that the YRLSP was ready to apply, maybe next year. The YRLSP would need to develop a plan. There also needs to be a 50% match and Kris sees some time constraints: the application would need to be in by February 1st and funds would be available on July 1st.

Jessica restated that Moffat County will still use its local HPP funds in partnership with landowners for weed control.

Tamara thought that the YRLSP project would be considered a landscape project if it could create an integrated treatment strategy that included addressing the endangered fish using fewer chemicals and using biocontrol.

Greg said that the YRLSP already is concerned about the effect on sage grouse if the leafy spurge migrates up into the upland areas and impacts habitat.

Tamara was concerned that \$100,000 would not be enough if the YRLSP had to revegetate after treatment for leafy spurge. Revegetation is difficult but through the Meeker Plant Project seeds could be acquired for an 18 to 24 month project costing about \$35,000 to \$70,000

Task 34: Kris will check on time constrains for the Statewide CPW HPP funds and report back to the possibility of the YRLSP accessing these funds.

Sixth Discussion: Next Meeting

Ben suggested that the YRLSP project return to setting a standard monthly meeting on a set day of the month.

The group agreed not to have a December meeting and starting in January to hold meetings every other month on the second Tuesday at 1:00pm.

Task 35: The YRLSP will schedule its next meeting for January 10, 2017 at 1:00pm at the Carpenter Ranch.