

1. Review detailed project budget & goals

- Budget was reviewed by group
 1. Money going to Dino includes funds for
 1. A seasonal employee, to start April 15th. Jenny Paulson has already been hired for this role for 2024.
 2. Starting in 2025, Dino will also hire a 12-week intern to start in early May and stay on through the biocontrol season.
 3. A vehicle Dino will rent to go around the watershed.
 4. A raft, trailer, and associated maintenance costs
 5. Supplies (mostly related to bug collection and transportation, including a refrigerator)
 6. Travel budget
 2. Rest of funds will be “banked” at Insectary and FOTY, as park service has asked recipients to get the money out in cooperative agreements
 1. A little over \$48,000 going to insectary over 7 years for bugs
 2. To FOTY: funds to buy bugs from Montana to supplement bugs from insectary, money for Emily B for admin overhead, and mileage/per diem reimbursement (65.5 cents per mile for anyone using personal vehicles, mileage/hotel/per diem for travel to Idaho, etc.). We can pay mileage/per diem for anyone from these funds, including agency folks. FOTY will pay for Dino seasonal employee for the last 4 years of grant too.
 3. Emily S is “frontlining” as many of these costs as possible (collection supplies, tablets, laptop)
 4. Note: federal money can’t be spent on food, so food expenses for events like the Show-Me Float need to come out of the regular YRLSP budget, but funds from the IRA grant can be used to cover the cost of bugs for these events
- Goals of project
 1. Get as many bugs out for leafy spurge and Russian knapweed as possible over the next 7 years
 1. Funds can support any organization’s/agency’s activities related to that in Yampa and Green basins
 2. Establish our own insectaries in the watersheds so we can have land managers and landowners come collect bugs themselves in the future

2. Initial supplies to order

- Cups, mesh, aspirators/filters, collection bags (pillowcases), accelerator, nets, tables, sun shelter. Also monitoring supplies. Emily and Tamara will get a list together for order in the next 2 weeks. Emily will place initial orders.

3. Partner thoughts on how/when they would like to participate in this project?

- **Mapping**

1. Baili Foster (USFS) like help mapping what she estimates to be about a half dozen populations of leafy spurge in Yampa headwaters. Emily will schedule with Baili.
2. East Cross Mountain RK & LS mapping help with Roddy Beall of Zenobia Partners
3. Watershed-wide RK mapping:
 1. Pete will create a preliminary RK map from his notes from LS mapping/monitoring, and then when we're releasing bugs in Little Yampa Canyon this year, we should have a few people map the RK there.
 2. Pete also wants to map in the SWA spots that we haven't mapped LS before, so we can include RK in that mapping effort too (and any other future LS mapping effort).
 3. Emily S noted that DINO will do more RK mapping on Green above the Yampa confluence too
4. Dan Bean at the Insectary said it would be worth re-mapping LS within this grant's lifetime. Tamara thinks this is a crazy ask, but with drones and other technological advances, it might be easier in a few years.

- **Monitoring**

1. Tamara will develop a list of release sites to be monitored this season; develop a rotation. We may add a couple sites in DINO (Echo Park?) and Tepee Draw this year.
2. Monitoring class to be help by Tamara on June 6th (alternate date is June 13) in late morning/afternoon at the Frog Pond (mm 100, near closed rest area). Anyone interested in helping to collect data at monitoring sites in the future is welcome!
3. Past release sites identified for monitoring in 2024:
 - Daryl Steele
 - Matty Moritz
 - Dale Haskins/State Land Board (Tamara to get permit for access)
 - Little Yampa Canyon

- Tepee (BLM)
- DINO (NPS)
- Harold Earle (if it's a low water year, get out there in second half of June)

- **Releases – leafy spurge**

1. Mike Duzik (Routt/Moffat line) – Jesse Schroeder
2. Nick Charchallis – Jesse Schroeder
3. DINO Yampa Canyon (water level dependent)
4. CPW SWA
5. Little Yampa Canyon
6. Tepee (BLM) – Chris Rhyne
7. Harold Earle (Yampa River at county line) – Tiffany Carlson
8. SMV Stetson (CR14 just S of Stagecoach) – Tiffany Carlson
9. J Quarter Circle – priority for bugs
10. E. Cross Mountain (BLM/Zenobia Partners), pending mapping results (Roddy has started to do initial mapping but will be doing more in the spring)
11. Dale & Jamie Skidmore (Sunbeam) – Emily Spencer
12. Sunbeam/Maybell private lands – Emily will work with Skidmores to identify any potential sites.

- **Releases - Russian knapweed**

1. Yampa and Green Rivers, DINO (NPS) May 14-17, May 21-24
 2. E. Cross Mountain (BLM/Zenobia Partners)
 3. CR 10 (BLM - R. olive removal area) – Chris Rhyne
 4. CR2/Slater Creek (BLM) Chris Rhyne
 5. Pete will look in leafy spurge mapping data for notes on presence of R. knapweed in/near LS infestations to help identify potential areas of releases
 6. CDA Insectary will comb through Request A Bug records for potential landowners of interest
- **Tiffany, Baili, and Jesse say their RK infestations are mostly in uplands, so they can just spray them, as they're having good luck with Milestone, especially when it's sprayed late in the season

4. Idaho leafy spurge collection - initial interest in participating; first 2 weeks of July is reserved for trip to ID.

- 12-13 participants needed; Participant List: Roddy Beall, Dale Skidmore, Jamie Skidmore (tentative), Allison Villard (USFS), Emily Burke, Ben Beall Sr, Tim Corrigan, Tamara Naumann, Pete Williams,

Emily Spencer, Juan Pablo Esparza Limon (DINO), Jenny Paulson (DINO), Ryan Daly (DINO)

1. Tamara says each tower works most efficiently with 3 people, and we could have as many as 7 towers running at one time.
 2. We have enough interest, so no need to advertise opportunity to more people yet. We'll set up a network of volunteers so when we return, we can get the bugs out quickly.
- 5. 2024 work plan development – how when and where can dedicated project staff (Dinosaur NM) assist with mapping, releases, collections, education/outreach events**
- See above.
 - Emily S has requested A LOT of Aulacidea (Russian knapweed gall wasp) releases from the insectary for mid-May through Mid-June.
 1. Emily S has been releasing Aulacidea for past 3 years along Yampa and Green and they have established and spread well. She can release more in Dino, but she really wants to see them released upstream too.
 - Invitation to join a release in Dinosaur if interested.
- 6. Compliance needs for federal agencies.** NPS, BLM LSFO, USFS all have required compliance in place. Working with BLM Vernal Field Office to help them get compliance in place for future releases in Upper/Middle Green River watershed.
- 7. Monitoring - what is realistic this year? What monitoring goals/objectives does YRLSP want to see for future years? E.g. Establishment? Measuring native/desirable vegetation response?** We will continue with monitoring protocol already established in 2024. Hope to add vegetation community response in next year using a small subset of existing release sites within the Yampa and Green watersheds. CDA Insectary has offered to help develop a set of parameters to address long term vegetation response.
- 8. Annual budget/project tracking and reporting** FOTY and Emily Spencer are responsible for this and will make project status available annually.
- 9. Show Me Float date**
- June 14 tentative, alternate June 28th – Ben Beall The Elder, John Husband; Dorsey to Loudy Simpson
- 10. Leafy spurge monitoring class date:** Tentative June 6th, alternate is June 13th (late morning/early afternoon) at Frog Pond. Tamara Naumann will coordinate.
- 11. Youth Event:** tentative dates are mid-July (July 11-12?). Chris Rhyne and Laurel are coordinators. Laurel should ask Shane if he can cover porta-potty cost before invoicing FOTY because he won't have to pay for bugs this year. Other costs can be paid for with money from counties.

12. **OTHER:** Baili Foster is interested in musk thistle biocontrol for Yampa headwaters. Emily at DINO is too for Lodore Canyon in DINO. We will research availability and cost with insectary.

13. **OTHER:** Biocontrol permit status:

- All insects for Russian knapweed & leafy spurge collected in CO and released in CO = Letter of no permit (released under CDA Insectary's permit).
- Leafy spurge insects collected in ID and released in CO = Letter of no permit (released under CDA Insectary's permit).
- All insects for Russian knapweed and leafy spurge collected in CO or ID and released in UT = need to find someone in UT with a permit to operate under. CDA Insectary helping with this.
- CDA Insectary will provide a copy of their permit and/or a letter of no permit for our documentation. Emily will chase this down with Insectary.

14. **OTHER:** Random loose ends:

Bugs seem to be better at spreading downstream than upstream. Federal agencies can no longer release tamarisk bugs (because of southwest willow flycatcher).

Chris points out that we should watch the Maybell Ditch post-construction for new populations of invasives. This might mean working with a ditch company and not an individual landowner for future releases.

There's not as much information about combining biocontrol and herbicide for RK as there is for LS, but the info that is out there suggests that they can coexist. Maybe we can test it as Cross Mtn this year. (Herbicide is sprayed in the fall when the Aulacidea is already protected within the gall.

Interestingly, what seems to be harmful to the bugs is the surfactant, not the actual herbicide. And then release bugs in May – June).