

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT
MEETING**

**Thursday, October 27, 2016
1:00pm at the Carpenter, Ranch**

Proposed Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Review Agenda
3. Agency Updates on 2016 Leafy Spurge Treatments (Routt County, Moffat County, BLM, Dinosaur Nat Mon, CPW, SLB, and NRCS)
 - a. Reference: 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant of \$19,000 for Leafy Spurge Treatment by Routt and Moffat Counties
 - b. Discussion of Access to SLB Lands
 - c. Agency In-Kind-Matches
 - d. Report on Stetson Project
4. Update on YRLSP Mapping Efforts (Greg Brown and Christine Shook)
 - a. Reference: 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant Partner In-Kind Matches of \$8,700
5. Update from Data/Private Landowner Coordinator (Barry Castagnasso)
 - a. Reference: 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant of \$8,550 for Data/Private Landowner Coordinator
 - b. Reference: July 2016 Job Description for YRLSP Data/Private Landowner Coordinator
6. Update on Educational Program/Leafy Spurge Informational Sheet (Marsha Daughenbaugh)
7. Update on Rig-to-Flip YRLSP PR Video (Ben Beall)
 - a. Possible viewing of Draft Cut of Video
 - b. Reference: 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant of \$950 for PR Video
8. Discussion of Draft of YRLSP 10-year Plan (Greg Brown)

9. Discussion of Draft of YRLSP 2015 CDA Weed Fund 2017 Grant Application (Ben Beall)

a. Discussion of how a landowner chemical subsidy would work.

10. Discussion of Sponsoring a Forum/Conference on Statewide and National Efforts to Combate Leafy Spurge in Riparian Areas (Ben Beall, Greg Brown)

a. Email from Tamara Naumann

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

Adjourn (3:30)

Packet:

1. Agenda
2. 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant Budget
3. July 2016 Job Description YRLSP Data/Private Landowner Coordinator
4. YRLSP Draft 10-Year Plan to be available at meeting
5. Draft 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant Application to be available at meeting
6. Email from Tamara Naumann regarding Forum/Conference
7. Report from Don Stinton on Stetson Property

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October 27, 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	Excused
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	Absent
Christine Shook	Natural Resources Conservation Services	
Marsha Daughenbaugh	Yampa Valley Community Ag Alliance	
Jerod Smith	Colorado State Land Board	Excused
Geoff Blakeslee	The Nature Conservancy	
Rusty Lloyd	The Tamarisk Coalition	Absent
David Smith	University of the Redlands	Absent

Guests

Gary Williams

Ben Beall thanked everyone for coming and opened the meeting thanking Christine Shook, NRCS, for copying the meeting packet not only for this meeting but for the September meeting. Ben stated that Christine was more economical in printing the copies. Ben asked if fewer dead trees were the correct way to go forward versus copying the full packet. Since everyone gets the packet ahead of the meeting, let's review the packet and save trees.

Meeting Discussions:

First Discussion Agency Updates on 2016 Leafy Spurge Treatments:

Routt and Moffat Counties Weed Programs reported that they are winding down fall treatments and that they would review their treatments to see what leafy spurge treatments qualified for inclusion for reimbursement in the 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant. Greg Brown and Jessica counts thought that they would be using some of the grant funds in the allowed spring treatment period. Ben reminded the group that the grant was specific in that there was to be 150 new acres treated under the grant. Greg presented a Report on the treatments on the Stetson Ranch. Greg stated that the Stetson property at Stagecoach qualified for reimbursement and Jessica said that her work on Teepee Draw would qualify.

Second Discussion In-Kind Matches for 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant:

In their 2016 leafy spurge treatment reviews Routt County, Moffat County, BLM and CPW will itemize their costs and labor for the required in-kind matches. Christine Shook stated that all partners can go back three months before the grant started to figure their in-kind matches. Ben said that he was keeping track of participation and administrative hours attending meetings. Jessica thought that it would be best if all agencies keep their own hours. Ben reminded everyone that they need to get their in-kind matches into Barry Castagnasso. Jessica volunteered to create a standard sheet where all in-kind matches would be listed.

Task1: Jessica to create an In-Kind Match Sheet and email to all partners who will enter their matches and email it to Barry for inclusion in the CDA invoice for reimbursement.

Third Discussion Revisit HPP Funding:

Kris Middendorf, CPW, asked the group if they had considered HPP funding for the project. Kris also thought that HPP funding could be used as match. Ben reminded Kris that the YRLSP had received a report from Jim Haskins, ex-CPW that HPP funding was problematic and couldn't be used. Kris thought that if we could connect leafy spurge with wildlife issues then HPP funding should qualify. Jessica said that Routt County and Moffat County look at HPP funds differently. Kris said that he would relook at how HPP funds could be used. Chris Rhyne, BLM, thought that Routt County would get on board with whatever HPP process works. Gary Williams understood the landowner application process but thought that all landowners would agree in a process for using HPP funds. Greg thought that if we could use HPP funds not only on BLM, SLB, and CPW lands but also private lands that this could help jump-start the YRLSP. Geoff Blakeslee TNC, thought that HPP funding would be a great incentive for landowner participation.

Task 2: Kris will review HPP funding possibilities and suggest a coordinated process.

Fourth Discussion Access to SLB Lands:

This item surfaced because Greg sees the necessity of obtaining access to SLB lands not only in the Focus Area along the Yampa but also other SLB lands. Greg had understood that there may be time periods that landowners would not allow access. Ben reported on an email he had received from Jerod Smith, SLB Northwest Colorado, which read “Regarding access to State Land Board property, lessees technically cannot authorize or deny access to SLB lands; however, lessees will notify my office when unauthorized access or use occurs. YRLSP can gain access to SLB lands through a temporary access permit, which is a relatively simple form found on our website (<https://www.colorado.gov/statelandboard/permits-and-other-surface-uses#forms-instructions>)”. Jessica stated that from her experience it should not be that difficult to gain access. Chris thought that we need to have some clarification from Jerod.

Task 4: Ben agreed to contact Jerod to see if he can attend our next meeting to explain the access process to SLB lands.

Fifth Discussion Update on Mapping Efforts:

Christine and Greg presented slides explaining the CDA mapping process. They have been in touch with Patty York, CDA. They showed examples of polygons entered in a map for leafy spurge infestations in Northwest Colorado from information already available. They thought that it would be best to have two times a year to enter mapping information in the CDA system: at the ends of the calendar and fiscal years. Greg thought that we would have a good “Red Blob” map this year after all the agency inputs to the system. The following year the YRLSP could begin to enter other information i.e. plant densities etc. Also, the YRLSP needs to map its leafy spurge beetle releases.

The partners were reminded to get all their mapping information to Greg and Barry would assist in entering this information into the CDA mapping system.

John Husband asked if his leafy spurge mapping information from Little Yampa Canyon could be entered in the system. Jessica responded that she has already created polygons from his information.

Task 5: Christine volunteered to send out an example of shape files including what information to include.

Sixth Discussion Update from Data/Private Landowner Coordinator:

Barry reported that he has been talking to landowners and neighbors about what the YRLSP is trying to do. He has a list of landowners from Moffat County, about 100. He does not have a list from Routt County. He understands that he needs to get permission from the landowner for access especially to cross their lands to treat leafy spurge on the Yampa.

Barry would like to get a letter out to all landowners with YRLSP information. Marsha volunteered to help. In regards to a question from Geoff asking what reception he is getting, Barry stated that they are glad that someone is taking an interest. Gray thought that the landowners know leafy spurge. However, some are not dealing with leafy spurge. Greg thought that the YRSLP could use the “shame factor” to bring everyone on board. The YRLSP needs to make a sheet for all landowners to find out what they are doing and have to treat leafy spurge.

Chris thought that there should be at least three letters over time to the landowners. The first one would describe who the YRLSP is. The second would have information on leafy spurge. The third would be a follow-up asking them to participate in the YRLSP. Geoff suggested that we answer the question in the letters, is the YRLSP accomplishing anything?

Ben asked Barry if he had any issues with the work requirements in the Data/Private Landowner Job Description. Barry thought that the description works and that he understands that part of this description is to work on data entry for mapping and in-kind matches.

Task 6: Barry with the help of Marsha will put together an introductory letter for landowners.

Seventh Discussion Update on Education Program/Leafy Spurge Information Sheet

Marsha passed out a second draft of her Leafy Spurge Information Sheet. The group thought that this should make a good insert in the letters to landowners. There were some suggestions for changes i.e. spelling corrections and personal titles. Greg suggested that rhizomes be added along with roots to the definition of leafy spurge. Also under “Why Be Concerned?” the point should be added that with leafy spurge a “lack of diversity affects water quality”. The suggestion was made that the YRLSP make a presentation to the Yampa/White/Green Roundtable.

Task 7: Marsha to create a third iteration of the YRLSP Information Sheet

Task 8: Marsha to see what would be the best date to get on the agenda of the Yampa/White/Green Roundtable

Eighth Discussion Update on YRLSP PR VIDEO:

Ben was sorry that Cody Perry of Rig-to-Flip, was not able to get a cut finished so we could have viewed a draft video. Cody will have a cut ready for review this weekend. Ben will send out an email with the instructions to view on Vimeo. Ben asked that everyone send their comments to him for forwarding to Cody. Ben asked for volunteers for a review committee. Greg, Marsha and Ben will be the Review Committee. They will meet with Cody to review the video and discuss YRLSP partner's comments for a final video.

Task 9: Ben will arrange a Review Committee date for a meeting with Cody to review and finalize the YRLSP PR/Info Video.

Ninth Discussion of YRLSP Draft 10-year Plan:

Greg passed out a draft YRLSP 10-year Plan. He asked for comments saying that he is writing the Plan as he would a Weed Plan. The only suggestions at this time were Year 1 needs to be a continuation of what the YRLSP has already accomplished and that the Plan needs to incorporate in Year 1 what will be in the 2017 CDA Weed Fund Grant.

Tenth Discussion of Draft YRLSP CDA Weed Fund Grant 2017 Application:

Ben stated that this draft follows the format of the 2016 CDA Weed Fund Grant Statement of Work. The 2017 CDA Weed Fund Application will be due in early January. Greg and Ben had met to coordinate the 10-year Plan and this draft. The group suggested that these changes be made: 1. Under D. Create an Incentive Program, Greg wanted to be careful about not jeopardizing the profitability of local chemical retail suppliers and Jessica wondered if this incentive program could be modeled after the Moffat County Weed Bounty Program; 2. H. Treat Leafy Spurge in the Focus Area. The question is how to deal with leafy spurge along the Yampa. It was the consensus of the group that the use of volunteers and rafts would be problematic. Jessica has talked with a private applicator, Troy Osbourn who is interested in purchasing equipment and contract for this work. The group thought that all costs of treatments should be placed in one place for the application; 3. I. Contract and Educate a Sheep Producer for leafy spurge treatments, Greg didn't know of any local sheep producers who understood the necessary requirements of sheep grazing to control leafy spurge. Greg will make contact with a sheep producer to see if this is a viable solution; 4. J. Create a Leafy Spurge PR program, Jessica suggested that this be expanded. Moffat County already puts out information at a weed booth at the MC Fair; and 5. K Organize/Sponsor a Forum Conference, Ben related an email from Tamara Naumann, NPS Dinosaur Nat Monument, which in short seemed to question the appropriateness of this idea at this time for the YRLSP. It would be time consuming and "if there is not great science to work from" maybe this is premature. The group thought that the YRLSP should try and

follow up on B. Contract with CSU for a Graduate Student to research leafy spurge. Greg and Jessica are attending a Colorado Weed Conference where they will make contact with CSU Weed Program and also talk with some chemical companies to see if there are any new chemicals for treatment of leafy spurge in riparian areas. Jessica thought that a new chemical Quincloro (sp) might be clear for riparian areas.

Task 10: Ben to create another draft for the YRLSP next meeting.

Task 11: Greg to make contact with a sheep producer to see if a sheep herd might be available for a test run.

Task 12: Jessica will talk with Troy Osbourn about contracting with the YRLSP for treatments on the Yampa and invite him to our next meeting.

Task 13: Greg and Jessica will make contact with CSU Weed Program at the annual Weed Conference and discuss the possibility of contract for a CSU Graduate Student to research treats for the riparian areas of the Yampa River.

Task 14: Greg and Jessica at the Weed Conference will approach chemical suppliers to see if there are any new chemicals and research for riparian areas.

Adjourned: 4:15

Next Meeting: Thursday December 8th at the Carpenter Ranch at 1:00pm