

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT**  
**SCHEDULED MEETING**  
**Wednesday 10:00 April 14, 2021**  
**Zoom Video Conference**

Proposed Agenda

1. Welcome: Ben (5 minutes)
2. Introductions: (5 minutes)
3. Review Agenda: (5 minutes)
4. PowerPoint Presentation on the YRLSP's Efforts with Biocontrol: Tamara (30 Minutes)
  - a. Presentation
  - b. Questions and Answers
5. Updates on YRLSP Summer Events (30 minutes)
  - a. Report on Biocontrol Education and Youth Event, June 30<sup>th</sup> or July 1<sup>st</sup> (Tamara)
  - b. Report on Permission Forms for Mapping, Biocontrol Releases, and Posting Maps of Infestations to website (John, Pete)
  - c. Update on Biocontrol Beetle Collection and Release Sites (Tamara)
  - d. Report on MC BCC Presentation (John)
  - c. Reports of Landowner Surveys
    1. CO First Conservation District Meeting (Laurel)
    2. RC Conservation District (Baili)
  - d. Update on Show Me Float, June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> (John, Ben)
  - e. Outreach
    1. RC BCC Presentation (Ben, Tiffany)
    2. Other
6. Partner Plans and Updates for 2020 Leafy Spurge Management: Group (20 minutes)
  - a. CWCB Grant
    1. Report on Hannah's Research/Thesis
  - b. Friends of the Yampa Donations Account
  - c. Routt County Weed Program
  - d. Moffat County Weed and Pest Management
  - e. Colorado Parks and Wildlife
  - f. Yampa River State Park
  - g. BLM
  - h. CO State Land Board
  - i. NRCS: Steamboat
  - j. NRCS: Craig
  - k. Dinosaur Nat Monument
  - l. MC CSU Extension
  - m. RC CSU Extension

7. Starting the Discussion about the Future Plan for the YRLSP: John, Ben, Group (15 minutes)

8. Discussion of Cancelling YRLSP June Meeting due to all the June Events and Activities (Ben, Group) (5 minutes)

9. Other (Group) 5 minutes

Next Scheduled Meeting:

**YRLSP Regular Meeting:** Wednesday, June 9th at the Carpenter Ranch or By Zoom

Proposed Adjournment (12:00pm)

**Meeting Packet:**

Proposed Agenda

**YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT**  
**Wednesday, April 14, 2021**  
**Zoom Video Conference**  
**Final Meeting Notes**

**ATTENDEES:**

**Working Group Members Present**

Jesse Schroeder, MC Weed and Pest  
Tiffany Carlson, RC Weed Program  
Ben Beall, Routt County Citizen  
Tamara Naumann, Moffat County Citizen  
Pete Williams, Moffat County Citizen  
John Husband, Moffat County Citizen  
Baili Foster, NRCS Steamboat Springs  
Laurel Deitch, NRCS Craig  
Teresa Audesirk, Routt County Citizen

**Guests**

John Kaltenbach, Colorado Department of Agriculture  
Bruce Johnson, J Quarter Circle Ranch

Ben Beall opened the meeting at 10:05. He thanked everyone for participating. He announced that he would be recording the meeting.

Ben shared the agenda with the Group and asked if there were any changes or suggestions to the agenda that had been shared by email.

John Husband announced that he would have to leave a little early. Ben suggested moving up Agenda Item 7, "Starting the Discussion about the Future Plan for the YRLSP," to before existing Item 6 so that John could be part of the discussion.

Ben asked if there were any more changes. Hearing none he said that he would follow the agenda with that one change.

**First Discussion: PowerPoint Presentation on YRLSP Biocontrol Efforts**

Tamara Naumann outlined what her presentation would contain:

What is Leafy Spurge Biological Control?  
History of Leafy Spurge Biological Control in the Yampa Valley  
Why consider Leafy Spurge Biological Control now in the Yampa Valley  
YRLSP Biocontrol Strategy  
Activities Completed since 2019  
Activities Planned for 2021  
Next Steps

The complete PowerPoint presentation is available on the YRLSP website, [www.yampariverleafyspurgeproject.com](http://www.yampariverleafyspurgeproject.com). The quickest way to find the presentation is to click on the “What’s New” button at the bottom of the home page. Or, using the menu bar at the top of the page, go to Projects/Biological Control/Biological Control Update April 2021.

Tamara summed up the presentation with the following:

The YRLSP has done a lot in 3 years.

More work remains to be done.

Misinformation about the leafy spurge beetles not surviving in riparian areas has been put to rest—survival has persisted in many of the original riparian release areas for decades.

New relationships have been developed with stakeholders.

We have reason to be optimistic.

These bugs are interesting!

Leafy spurge will not prevail if we persist.

Tamara reminded the Group that there is a lot of biological control information posted on the YRLSP website, [www.yampariverleafyspurgeproject.com](http://www.yampariverleafyspurgeproject.com).

Tamara asked if there were any questions.

Ben thanked Tamara for the presentation. He also asked about how, if (as described in the existing literature) the leafy spurge beetles overwinter inside the plant roots, how could seasonal floods drown the beetles?

Tamara replied that, even if protected within the plant’s woody roots, a long enough period of inundation could still saturate the roots. Nevertheless, clearly the beetles are persisting through the periods of annual flood in the Yampa Valley.

Ben suggested that through our efforts the YRLSP can add to the knowledge and information for the state and nationally. He was glad to see that John Kaltenbach was in attendance. Maybe John can make recommendations on how the YRLSP moves forward with biocontrol.

Ben recommended that we share this presentation with other partners.

John Husband said that the Idaho study that Tamara had included with the agenda described releasing 50 beetles per flowering stem. That is a lot of bugs. With all the beetles that the YRLSP has released to date that would amount to only about 600 stems.

Tamara responded that yes, the study’s protocol called for an enormous number of beetles per release. For example, when YRLSP does a standard release of 1,000 beetles that would only be sufficient for 20 stems. However, Tamara pointed out some of the limitations of the Idaho study:

1. They assumed that the beetles don't survive in riparian areas, and so would not persist beyond one season.
2. They only made one beetle release, and so meant to maximize the number for increased impact.
3. Their entire study was for planned for only 2 years, which meant that they would observe the impact of the beetles after just one growing season.

Tamara said that the jury is still out on how many beetles need to be released. She pointed out that before the 2020 Earle oxbow release, she and Tyler both observed that there was a lot less leafy spurge than in previous years, and that beetles were found to be already present before the 2020 release was made. A reasonable explanation is that beetles had moved downstream from the four separate releases on the adjacent Yampa River State Wildlife Area in 2019, each of which had been approximately a thousand beetles.

Tamara thought that there needs to be more observation and follow-up. It may well be that there doesn't have to be the inundation with beetles as in the Idaho study. Also, after a high flood year it may be necessary to augment the beetles but conversely after a drought year there will be more beetle survival.

John Kaltenbach seconded the recommendation that the YRLSP needs to share their information with others. He said that he had not read the Idaho paper. He agreed that there needs to be augmentation of the beetles with the goal of establishing a population. John suggested that a good outcome would be a recommendation on when to augment. He wondered if there were not some soil metrics, e.g. texture or moisture, that might affect the survival of the beetles. He asked if anyone had done any studies on the soil? He agreed with the literature that if you bomb an infestation with beetles that there will be a pronounced effect.

John added that 50 Aphanthia beetles per stem seemed too high. We are limited on how many beetles we can collect. Last year was only the third year in his twelve years with the CDA that they were able to collect 100,000 or more beetles. He has always struggled when asked for how many beetles should be released per acre. He said the answer depends on the site.

Balil Foster said that she had read in the Idaho paper the recommendation that releases should be on the perimeter of the infestations. She asked if the YRLSP follow this recommendation? Tamara responded that this is the YRLSP standard operating procedure. However, most of our infestations are small.

**Task 1. The YRLSP to document their leafy spurge observations and results for statewide and national dissemination.**

**Task 2: The Group to share the YRLSP Biocontrol PowerPoint with partners and interested parties.**

**Task 3: Ben to send the Idaho study to John Kaltenbach.** (Note: This study, "A Barrage of Beetles: Controlling Leafy Spurge through Beetle Inundation," is also available for download from the Resources page of the YRLSP website.)

## **Second Discussion: Updates on the YRLSP Summer Events**

### 1. Report on Biocontrol and Youth Event, June 30<sup>th</sup> or July 1<sup>st</sup>

Tamara said that she had nothing more than what she reported in the PowerPoint presentation.

### 2. Report on Permission Forms for Mapping, Biocontrol Releases, and Posting Maps of Infestations on website

John Husband said that he had contacted about 30 landowners. He noted that most of these had never responded to last year's requests, and he has not received much response this year as well. He said that he was still working on a few landowners and would still like to work with Cross Mountain Ranch to get their permission.

Pete Williams thanked John for doing a fantastic job. Most of the landowners that we wanted to contact had just small patches on their land that we had seen from the river last summer. However, John had managed to get permissions from some of the property owners with large infestations, such as Mock. Pete told the Group that he has updated our leafy spurge maps on the YRLSP website to include the new permissions for display from Stoffle, Mock, Steel and Elam.

Ben asked if there was any way that we could get Camilletti's permission. Pete agreed that that was the big one that is missing from the website. John said that he had talked to Darrell many times. Tamara added that the good thing was that when Camilletti had given her permission to monitor last summer for Jessica Count's 2016 beetle release, she had found a lot of beetles still present.

### 3. Update on Biocontrol Beetle Collection and Release, June 14<sup>th</sup> through June 18<sup>th</sup>

Tamara said that she had nothing more to report than what she had in her PowerPoint, other than that she would be in contact with John Kaltenbach for collection on the Front Range.

### 4. Report on Moffat County BCC Presentation

John reported that the presentation went well. He presented a handout and a PowerPoint describing what the YRLSP has done and what we plan to do this summer.

### 5. Reports on Landowner Surveys

Laurel Deitch reported that the Colorado First Conservation District Annual Meeting had about 40 or 50 attendees, or about 50% of normal. There were no takers for the leafy spurge field day. The CO First board has put together a survey that Kacey Green, the District Director, will send to their email list. Laurel said that she will give an update of the returns as to takers for the leafy spurge field trip.

Baili said she attended the Routt County Conservation District meeting. There were 12 attendees. She shared with the group a survey question asking them to "rate your interest in attending a

field day workshop to explore leafy spurge infestations and biocontrol treatments . . . in July . . . hosted by the YRLSP.”

There were 9 who answered “yes” to being interested in learning about leafy spurge, 1 who answered “yes” to having leafy spurge on his property, and 7 who responded “yes” to being interested in attending a field day on leafy spurge in July.

Baili has shared the names of these landowners with the YRLSP.

#### 6. Update on Show Me Float, June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

Ben shared an invitee list for the 2021 Show Me Float. Due to possible low water the float has been rescheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 11–12, in Little Yampa Canyon.

John Husband wanted everyone to know that this was a draft list. There were not many landowners on the list and it was too long. He didn’t expect everyone to go.

Ben asked the Group if we were missing anyone that should be on the list.

Tamara suggested: Kate Greenberg, Colorado Agricultural Commissioner, and Jackie Brown from the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

John Kaltenbach agreed that Kate Greenberg should be included.

Baili suggested adding Lyn Halliday, Routt County Conservation District and Integrated Water Management Plan.

#### 7. Outreach Events--Routt County Board of County Commissioners presentation

Ben reported that he and Tiffany Carlson had given an update to the RC BCC on March 16<sup>th</sup> regarding the funds allocated by the RC Weed Board for JQC Ranch, but not spent. Commissioner Tim Corrigan had asked for a short update on the YRLSP. Tim had said that a longer update should be presented after all the summer work. Tiffany added that Commissioner Corrigan apologized for not making the YRLSP meetings recently, due to the RC Health meetings also having been scheduled on Wednesdays.

**Task 4: The Group to figure out how to get Darrell Camilletti to give his permission for displaying the mapping data for his infestations.**

**Task 5: Laurel to compile the information regarding interest in leafy spurge from the Colorado First Conservation District landowner survey, for presentation to the Group.**

**Task 6: Ben to schedule a YRLSP presentation to the RC BCC.**

### **Third Discussion: The Future Plan for the YRLSP**

Ben related to the Group that he and John Husband had had a discussion regarding what should be the YRLSP's next 5-year plan, after they had produced a "5-year Accomplishments" document for presentation to the Moffat County Board of County Commissioners. Ben thought that Tamara's PowerPoint presentation could be a good start for continuing this discussion among the rest of the Group.

Ben said that he and John wanted to just start the discussion and that there could be a more in-depth discussion at a later date.

John agreed that it was important for the YRLSP to think about going forward. In the last few years, we have been working on the CWCB Grant with its research. John hoped that we have learned something about leafy spurge through Hannah's research and the biocontrol efforts. John said that the YRLSP needs to create a message about what we have learned; how we can help; and what is our outreach.

Ben asked the Group for other ideas for the future discussion:

Tamara pointed out: 1) Baili's and Laurel's outreach activities; 2) The Youth Event, with which Baili, Laurel, and Jacob Dewhirst are going to assist this summer; 3) Jacob Dewhirst's desire to create a "biology curriculum for kids; and 4) The possibility of not only working with the Craig's Boys and Girls Club but also with Jacob's Hayden Youth Group.

Tamara related to the Group that she is now on the Friends of the Yampa Board. At the last FOTY Board meeting they asked what could FOTY do to collaborate with the YRLSP.

Ben emphasized that the YRLSP is an ad hoc group, which makes it especially important that we work with and through our partners.

Tamara thought that Hannah's Master's Thesis recording (posted to the website on the Research pages) brought up ideas for further discussion: 1) Sheep grazing is not going to be worth the trouble for the management of leafy spurge in difficult-to-reach riparian environments, and 2) There are some new chemicals now available that look promising—in particular, Duracor and Quinclorac.

Tamara said that it would be important to discuss the integration of chemicals and biocontrol in the management of leafy spurge. It would be important to get Tiffany and Jesse to participate in the discussion. Tiffany said that she is interested.

Ben thanked everyone for their ideas and will put together these ideas for another discussion of the future of the YRLSP.

**Task 7: Ben and John to put together an agenda item, The Future of the YRLSP, for further discussion.**

## **Fourth Discussion: Partner Plans and Updates**

### 1. CWCB Grant, Tamara

- a. There is another 6-month report due in mid-May
- b. Hannah Kuhns' thesis will be available in late May and will be posted to our website
- c. Chloe Mattilio's research still in progress through 2021
- d. Still working on accounting with University of Wyoming
- e. There are some CWCB funds left, and also county funds

### 2. Friends of the Yampa Donations Account, Ben

Ben shared Lindsey Marlow's accounting sheet, which showed the most recent donations and payments. There is a balance of \$3,043.83. Ben thought that some funds would be used for the Show Me Float. He related to the Group that Commissioner Corrigan had asked about the YRLSP's need for funding and that the YRLSP should apply to the RC Weed Board for Taylor Grazing Act funds. Tiffany added that the next request would be due in March 2022.

### 3. Routt County Weed Program, Tiffany

- a. Will be starting weed management in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May
- b. RC will be applying for beetles from the Palisade Insectary. Tiffany wanted to thank the Insectary for working with RC. Ben thought that it great that RC was applying for beetles. He wanted to make sure that RC was going to document their releases and share the information with the YRLSP so that they could be mapped. John Kaltenbach said that there is an Insectary form for the data. Tiffany said that she would share the data.

### 4. CO Parks and Wildlife

Tamara reported that Tyler Jacox will be assisting at the Biocontrol Kids Event and the planned beetle release on Moffat County land across the Yampa from Loudy Simpson.

### 5. NRCS Steamboat, Baili

- a. Baili wanted to highlight the Soil Health Initiative Grant. There are funds available for soil testing that meet certain land management objectives.
- b. Bruce Johnson appreciates Baili's help in setting up a meeting in July to look at JQC Ranch's leafy spurge infestations. Tamara told Bruce that she would like to help as much as possible and that she had found beetles wherever there was leafy spurge on the ranch.

**Task 8: Tiffany to share Routt County's beetle release data so that it can be included in the YRLSP mapping.**

## **Fifth Discussion: Cancellation of the June YRLSP Meeting**

Ben said that he had but this on the agenda because the YRLSP has many events during June: Show Me Float, Beetle Collection and Releases, Leafy Spurge Mapping, etc. Ben asked the

Group if it was appropriate to cancel the June meeting. There was agreement that the June meeting should be canceled. Ben said that therefore the next meeting would be August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Tamara will keep everyone informed about these upcoming events:

- a. The Biocontrol Field Trip
- b. She would like to schedule a meeting with Jesse Schroeder on the lands where he has been using the new chemicals

**Task 9: Tamara to share with the Group the date and time of the Biocontrol Field Trip and a trip to view Jesse's chemical treatments using the new chemicals.**

**Next Scheduled Meeting:**

**YRLSP Regular Meeting:** 10:00am Wednesday, August 11th at the Carpenter Ranch or by Zoom

Meeting Adjourned: 11:50