

Weed Department Report
Weed Board Meeting
October 10th, 2024

- On October 3rd I sent a certified control letter to Vernon Butt for the bindweed issues in his 1100 acre plot North of county road 334.

- As of Oct 7th, the field South of the Monticello Port of Entry belonging to Robert Anderson has been partially disked and it appears that both it and the field belonging to Sue Halliday to the West of Robert Andersons field are in the process of being disked by the Halls who are currently the contracted farmers on these plots.

- As the spray season is nearly over Don Andrews and I are spending as much time as possible spraying in the riparian areas along the San Juan River in support of the San Juan River Camelthorn and Russian knapweed grant project. This project has made a huge impact in the total amount of Russian knapweed in these areas. Several hundred acres previously infested areas are now returning to a more natural state including significant native grass growth in many of the areas. Camelthorn in these riparian areas is at a point of control that eradication may be possible over the next few years through ongoing maintenance treatment of the areas that were previously inundated with Camelthorn.

- When the spray season ends I will work with the county attorney to finalize our official weed control letters and submit them to the weed board for input and final approval. I will also seek input on the proposed changes to the San Juan County weed ordinance and ask for any other proposed changes before we seek final approval from the weed board and the county commission.

- I will begin researching the possibility of the purchasing a new spray truck to replace our aging 2001 Dodge Ram, go anywhere, spray rig. I believe it is imperative that we purchase a vehicle that can haul up to a 400 gallon tank and still have the capability to handle rough roads and sand without getting stuck. Our 2017 Ford F450 has a highway hauler configuration and is prone to getting stuck in loose dirt situations. Our next truck will need to be as capable as the old Dodge to fit our needs.

