

Weed Department Report Weed Board Meeting 2/4/2020

- ◆ We will submit 2 grants this year under the UDAF Invasive Species Management program
- ◆ The first grant seeks \$30,000 in funding in support of our ongoing “Spray Days” herbicide distribution project. This year I intend to schedule 2 spray days each in Bluff, Blanding, Monticello and La Sal. The first will be in early June and the second in late July. We will distribute Milestone herbicide mixed with surfactant. I will advertise these events in the San Juan Record. I plan to advertise on local bulletin boards and social media in Bluff and La Sal as last years turn out in these towns was very low. This funding will also be used to assist local entities such as the water conservancy district with both noxious weed and vegetation control.
- ◆ The second grant seeks \$58,000 in funding in support of our San Juan River Camelthorn and Russian Knapweed Control project. This will involve multiple applications of herbicide along the San Juan River at various locations from Montezuma Creek to Mexican Hat. This year I plan to coordinate with the BLM field office in support of weed control along a newly approved bike trail along the San Juan River from Sand Island to Bluff. Weed control in this riparian area is exactly what the focus of this grant/project is.
- ◆ With the continuation of our \$13,000 yearly contract with the BLM and the two grants I hope to contribute approximately \$99,000 dollars to our weed department budget. As the budget for the weed department is currently set at \$75,000 we may not end up using any more money than we have brought in as funding.
- ◆ We are a grant partner for in-kind work with Tim Higgs the Grand County weed supervisor. This is a Utah Weed Supervisors Association (UWSA) grant submittal. This project is intended to identify and treat spotted knapweed on the La Sal mountains. I intend to provide spray equipment and personnel to help with this project.
- ◆ We plan to surplus our 2007 Polaris 700, Six Wheel UTV. It runs and drives but has apparent engine issues. We may also surplus our very old Honda 450 Rancher. The goal is to raise enough from the surplus sales to cover the cost of a much newer and hopefully more reliable Honda 450 Rancher that the survey department plans to surplus. We have already purchased a new 30 gallon spray system for an atv as we had planned to purchase the 4 wheeler last year until Covid-19 changed our expenditures.
- ◆ Mack McDonald is in the process of advertising a Weed Board vacancy to fill Blaine Nebeker's position. Blaine has served this board since 2007 and deserves much appreciation for his service to this board and our community.