

## **Weed Department Report**

### **Weed Board Meeting**

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

- The UDAF grant opportunity for 2024-25 was opened in mid-February. I applied for a total of \$100,000 in grants for 2024. I hope to also get at least \$13,000 from the new BLM contract for the 2024 season.
- For all of the persons that did not respond to the control letters I sent last summer I will send a follow up letter that explains their responsibility to control weeds. I will make it clear that next year they will be the subjects of increased scrutiny for enforcement. Next year I intend to send initial notices of control to everyone that has had a previous weed issue over the last several years.
- We will be opening our seasonal positions within the next week or two. We hope to have Don Andrews return and hire one other person that hopefully has the potential to return for multiple seasons. This would help to cut the time it takes to get a new person licensed and trained well enough to be able to effectively identify and treat the specific noxious weeds we are tasked with treating.
- For spray days this year we will schedule two different distribution events. The first will be in early June and the second in August. In addition we will earmark some of this funding to spray certain unique noxious weed occurrences on private lands. This will include areas of Musk Thistle and Canada Thistle that could lead to large infestations.
- This summer I hope to obtain an FAA license to fly a drone in support of our weed control efforts. I plan to do this outside of work. I intend to purchase my own small drone and see if it would be of a practical use in the areas we work along the San Juan River. One immediate advantage would be to survey riparian areas along the river that only accessible by water. If we can identify significant noxious weed presence in these water locked areas we could justify either contracting or purchasing a boat that could allow us access to these areas.