

## **Weed Department Report Weed Board Meeting 3/4/202**

- ◆ I submitted 2 Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), Invasive Species Management (ISM) grants totaling \$88,000 dollars on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. We should receive an answer as to whether we were awarded funding sometime this month. If our grant submission is approved we will receive the funds in June.
- ◆ We recently submitted an invoice to the BLM for \$13,000 for work performed on BLM lands as part of an option year for a BLM contract from 2018. We hope to continue this work under the 2 option years still available under the contract.
- ◆ With the \$13,000 BLM billing and award of the 2 submitted grants we will provide \$99,000 in revenue for the weed department. This will increase our proposed budget which is currently set at \$75,000. If we do not run into any major equipment failures we may be able to cover weed department expenses with no additional money from the county general fund.
- ◆ We recently purchased a 2007 Honda Rancher 450 from the survey department. This will be a replacement to our long serving 1997 Honda Rancher spray rig. This is a very capable 4 wheeler with power steering, automatic transmission and an almost new winch. We had previously purchased a modern low profile 25 gallon spray system with booms for a 4 wheeler. This will give us a much more reliable option to get into tight areas the Kubota spray rigs cannot access.
- ◆ We plan to surplus our 2007 Polaris 700, Six Wheel UTV. It runs and drives but has apparent engine issues. We will also surplus our very old Honda 450 Rancher. The goal is to raise enough from the surplus sales to cover the cost of our newly acquired 4 wheeler. This should be pretty easy to achieve as we paid a very reasonable \$2500 for the newer 4 wheeler.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ I plan to start our seasonal crew on April 12<sup>th</sup> this year. I have spoken to Don Andrews and Rianna Shumway and they both plan to return this season. This will allow us to get right to work as they will not require any training on equipment or weed identification.