

Weed Department Report

Weed Board Meeting

November 7th, 2023

- For the month of October we spent at least 2 days a week at sites along the San Juan River in support of the San Juan River project. We will spend the other 2 days of the week checking and spraying some of the more remote roads that typically do not have a large amount of noxious weeds on the ROW's. In November, as weather allows, I will spray all guard rails and cattle guards before the snow flies.
- For all of the persons that did not respond to the control letters sent earlier this 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.
- This month will be the end of Don Andrews season as his 6 months are up on November 7th. Don's input over the last several seasons has been invaluable to the weed department. I hope he decides to return for many seasons to come.
- This winter I am going to look into writing a grant to fund a new round of Tamarisk beetle release along the San Juan River. It is clear, based on the large amount of old tamarisk skeletons, that previous Tamarisk beetle releases have been very effective. There is plenty of new Tamarisk to justify another project in the near future. Our current UDAF ISM grants will fund a biological control project.
- I will seek to obtain grants for both our Spray Days and San Juan River Camelthorn and Russian knapweed projects. I believe the amounts we received last year were adequate to support the projects. I hope to schedule two spray days in the spring next year to give more people a chance to obtain herbicide.
- We had received a special grant from the US forest service and UDAF as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding. This grant provided us with \$22,000 in extra revenue for this year. Brittany Duncan combined data from her recently completed 5 year study in Camelthorn areas on Guymon ranch and San Juan Hill with our information and pictures we provided. The report is very informative and is a great assessment of the control success we have achieved in these areas. Copies of this report will be provided at the weed board meeting.