

Weed Department Report

Weed Board Meeting 07/01/21

- This month we are asking the San Juan County Commission for a budget adjustment. Our budget was set at \$75,747 for 2021. We are asking that the Commission to adjust the budget to \$116,000 for the year. This is \$26,000 above the revenue of \$90,000 we will receive from our awarded grants and BLM contract. If this is approved we will have the revenue to continue the projects we have begun and keep our seasonal employees till at least September. If the adjustment is not approved we will have to ration our herbicide supply and cut the season short for our seasonal employees.
- As our supply of Milestone is very low until we hopefully get our budget adjustment we have begun using alternative herbicides for ROW spraying. Currently we are either using glyphosate or Opensight for this spraying. Since we are doing weed specific handgun spraying I believe we can use a non-specific herbicide like glyphosate without a great deal of residual kill.
- Our Spray Day's herbicide giveaways events were not as successful as we had hoped. We only distributed 270 gallons in Monticello and 364 gallons in Blanding. Some of this was due to the timing of the advertisement in the San Juan Record. In response I plan to have a second round of Spray Days on Saturday July 10th in both Blanding and Monticello. This will be preceded by 2 weeks of advertising in the San Juan Record and ads in all Facebook groups in Monticello and Blanding. This will hopefully allow us to help meet the goals specified in our Spray Days Grant.
- We will begin vegetation control on ROW's as the county begins to mow the shoulders of county roads. Our focus will be delineators, cattle guards and guardrails. Later in the season the road department will begin cutting rabbit brush and we will follow up with Tordon which should eventually eliminate rabbit brush from guardrails and cattle guards.
- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week we hosted and provided back country transportation to Brittany Duncan of the UDAF and 3 of her research assistants. She is studying vegetation and soils in the San Juan Hill and Guymon Ranch areas along the San Juan River. She will be looking at Camelthorn areas she studied last year before we treated them. I believe she will be surprised to find that we have fully eradicated Camelthorn from these study areas which also adds validity to our San Juan River Grant project.
- I have submitted a list of property owners with current Field Bindweed issues. I plan to send out control letters next week and follow up with each recipient.