

Weed Department Report

Weed Board Meeting

March 7th, 2024

- The UDAF grant opportunity for 2024-25 was opened in mid-February. I am applying for a continuing grant for our San Juan River Camelthorn and Russian Knapweed project. This year I intend to extend the project to BLM riparian areas East of Bluff. This includes an area known as Sacred Mountain which is approximately 1000 acres of dense live and dead tamarisk. In addition to the Russian Knapweed I will add treatment of Phragmites (Common Reed) stands that usually occur directly adjacent to the river. We will also spray select stands of Tamarisk late in the season as this is the best time for treatment of this species. I will also apply for a grant to continue our spray days program with a plan to expand the giveaway to 2 events in 2024.
- 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 received a special grant in 2023 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.
- After 5 years our BLM contract has expired. This contract provide the weed department with \$13,000.00 of revenue per year. Tina Marian has taken over Nephi Noyes position at the BLM. I am currently working Tina to secure a new multiple year contract with BLM. I hope we are awarded a large yearly amount for the new contract. I intend to seek a smaller grant from the Utah Weed Supervisors, Forest Service funded grant program. I hope to use this info for the purchase and FAA licensing to begin a drone monitoring program.
- Last season was very productive season for our San Juan River project. We were able to spray approximately 20% more dense Russian Knapweed patches than in any previous year. This was accomplished by just 2 people as my second seasonal employee left unexpectedly early at the end of last July. We did however discover a significant presence of Camelthorn in an area it was not previously present on San Juan Hill during our last few days of the season. This season we will focus more treatment days on the San Juan Hill area early in the spray season.