

Weed Department Report Weed Board Meeting 02/03/22

- UDAF has announced that grant submittal for the 2022/2023 grant cycle began on February 1st, 2022. Grant submissions are due by March 31st, with an award date of June 1st, 2022.
- We will be asking for an increase in our ongoing San Juan River Camelthorn and Russian Knapweed project/grant. This year we will add the Bluff to Sand Island bike trail to the grant as an additional area of concern. Late last season we discovered a well-hidden, large patch of camelthorn along this trail which will need additional treatments to eradicate. We are also going to add Phragmites and Giant reed as weeds of concern under this grant as we have documented several occurrences of phragmites along the river and at least one significant patch of Giant Reed near the Mexican Hat boat launch.
- We will be requesting an increase in our ongoing Spray Days grant. This year we plan to add an herbicide giveaway in Spanish Valley. We also plan to have at least 2 and perhaps even 3 different distribution events in Bluff, Blanding, Monticello, LaSal and Spanish valley. We will again be offering a choice of either Milestone or Glyphosate. We will also allot some of this money to cover small areas of weeds on private lands where the owners are financially or physically unable to address a weed issue.
- We will be able to spray smaller plots of land for a fee in 2022. Especially if said property has a weed issue that has a high likelihood of spreading to revenue generating farming or ranching properties. We will only spray areas that have a presence of Utah State listed noxious weeds. We will not spray private lands for purposes of vegetation control or non-noxious weed control.
- We are upgrading our spray pump on our Dodge spray truck from a 2 cylinder Udor diaphragm pump to a 3 cylinder diaphragm pump. The current pump suffers from significant pulsing even with its built in pulse dampening system. This pulsing lead to 2 hose failures last year and created down time and unexpected herbicide discharges. The 3 cylinder largely eliminates the pulsing and we are lucky enough to have already purchased a Udor Zeta 35 sometime in the past that has been sitting on a shelf for several years.
- Due to significant issues with flat tires on our Kubota and Honda spray rigs last year we put new 10 ply tires on one of the Kubota's and have yet to have a flat with the new tires. Therefore we plan to replace the tires on our second Kubota and our Honda ATV spray rigs hopefully resulting in significantly fewer flats in 2022.