

## Weed Department Report

### Weed Board Meeting

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- We hired a total of 4 persons as seasonal employees this year. They are Don Andrews, Kaylin Jones, Cami Lewis and McKenna Francom. The first three are scheduled to start this week and McKenna will start in early June. The road department will cover the salary cost for the 4<sup>th</sup> employee. This gives us a large batch of licensed and trained sprayers that may be able to return for the next several seasons.
- We were recently awarded \$100,000 in grant funding for our San Juan River and Spray Days projects. We will be expanding our San Juan River project to the East of Bluff working in the riparian area South of the Rock Formation known as Sacred Mountain. This is an area of approximately 1000 acres of previously killed and live tamarisk and Russian olive trees. I inspected this area late last season and found many large patches of Russian Knapweed. Camelthorn has been spotted in this area in previous years as well. The more upstream areas we can address, the better chance we have of one day eradicating the noxious weeds along the river.
- With multiple employees this year my time is freed up to address weed enforcement issues more consistently and thoroughly. As I mentioned previously I will begin with letters to former weed control recipients explaining their responsibility to control weeds based on the Utah Weed act. I will also begin doing more enforcement in the Blanding and Bluff farm areas as needed,
- By having plenty of employees I will also have more time to document and record the work we are doing on our grant projects. The state is expecting more documentation, mapping and photographic presentations as time goes on. At some point in the future they may actually require a full yearly report basically documenting every day of work on the project. Currently we just give basic details and approximations. Having more time to document the work will be key to continuing to receive UDAF grant funding.
- The employees will begin this week with spraying county properties and checking and spraying right of ways across the county.