

Weed Department Report Weed Board Meeting 06/03/21

- ◆ With 2 grants that total \$77,000 along with our \$13,000 BLM contract we will receive \$90,000 in revenue to apply to our budget. Our budget was set at \$75,747 last year. Grants require that grant money be spent on the projects specified in the grant. This means that the county has to provide some level of funding for the department. I have suggested to Todd Adair that we attempt to adjust the budget to \$116,000 with the county contributing \$26,000 in revenue. Hopefully this is approved, otherwise we may have to shorten the time we can keep the seasonal employees and herbicide will have to be closely rationed.
- ◆ Since April 21st we have spent 11 full days spraying areas along the San Juan River. We have applied around 7500 gallons of both Milestone and Opensight herbicides. We are seeing huge improvements in the amount of Camelthorn that is present in these areas especially in the San Juan Hill area.
- ◆ I have been consulting with Jim Hook of Bluff and Rick Myers about spraying the new trail being constructed between Bluff and Sand Island. We have sprayed the length of the trail that is currently completed as there are large amounts of Russian Knapweed both on the trail and surrounding the trail. Jim recently informed me that part of the Easement agreement for the trail is the control of weeds. This trail was proposed by and is being funded by a partnership between the Bluff Historical Preservation Society, The Grand Canyon Trust and the Sand Island BLM Field Office. I will work with Jim, who is a member of the Historic Presevation Society, to set up an agreement to provide weed control and bill for the work we have done and will continue to do.
- ◆ We have sprayed many of the county owned properties around the county for vegetation control. We still have approximately half of the properties to complete and we will continue to monitor the properties and spray them as needed.
- ◆ We recently sprayed the Blanding airport with a focus on spraying around the runway lights and other indicator lights.
- ◆ As weed growth on Right-of-way's is starting rather slowly this year we have been spending more time spraying within the towns of Blanding and Monticello.
- ◆ Although very late I did send out letters, this week, to everyone presented on our list of previous weed letter recipients and the properties specified by Cade Lewis in our last board meeting. The letter included links to guides for controlling Russian Knapweed, Field Bindweed, Canada Thistle and Puncturevine. I now have the ability to access the county taxpayer database which will allow me to get mailings out without having to rely on the assessors office. I also now have a printer in my office and I have even been provided with an older copy of the Microsoft Office suite which will very much improve my ability to generate mailings from a database I am currently constructing.