

The Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project (YRLSP) was created in 2015 by a diverse group of people representing agencies, organizations and individuals in Moffat and Routt Counties who are concerned about leafy spurge infestation along the Yampa River corridor.

The infestation, which was once concentrated in a 15-mile region of the Yampa River riparian areas in western Routt County and eastern Moffat County, has now spread along the Yampa River and into Dinosaur National Monument. It is being observed in Little Yampa Canyon as well as along irrigation ditches and tributaries of the Yampa River.

The YRLSP goal is to combat the leafy spurge infestation in the Yampa River Watershed.



## **LEAFY SPURGE**



### **YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT PARTNERS**

Moffat County  
Routt County

Colorado First Conservation District  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Colorado State Land Board  
Concerned Citizens

CSU Routt County Extension  
CSU Moffat County Extension  
Community Agriculture Alliance  
Dinosaur National Monument

Friends of the Yampa

Little Snake Field Office BLM  
Private Landowners

Natural Resource Conservation  
Service

The Nature Conservancy  
Yampa River System Legacy Partnership

### **WHEN YOU SEE IT, REPORT IT**

#### **YAMPA RIVER LEAFY SPURGE PROJECT**

##### **MOFFAT COUNTY WEED AND PEST MANAGEMENT**

Jesse Schroeder, Manager  
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-or-

##### **ROUTT COUNTY WEED PROGRAM**

Tiffany Carlson, Supervisor  
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[tcarlson@co.routt.co.us](mailto:tcarlson@co.routt.co.us)

**Visit:**

[yampariverleafyspurgeproject.com](http://yampariverleafyspurgeproject.com)

### **CHARACTERISTICS of LEAFY SPURGE (*Euphorbia virgata*)**

- ❖ The plant is one of the first to emerge in the spring
- ❖ The flowers are very small, yellowish-green and are enclosed by very visible yellowish-green, heart-shaped bracts
- ❖ Flower clusters develop 1 to 2 weeks after stem emergence
- ❖ Stems are smooth, pale green, and thickly clustered
- ❖ Leaves are alternate, narrow, linear and 1-4 inches long
- ❖ The entire plant contains white, milky sap that exudes readily upon stem or leaf breakage
- ❖ The plant spreads by creeping roots, seeds and rhizomes.
- ❖ The roots can be as deep as 30 feet and are extremely wide-spread. They are brown and contain numerous pink buds that generally produce new shoots or roots
- ❖ The plant grows 1-3 feet in height
- ❖ One large leafy spurge plant can produce up to 130,000 seeds. Three-sided seed capsules explode when ripe and project the seeds up to 15 feet away from the parent plant

### **WHY BE CONCERNED?**

- ❖ Leafy Spurge is an extremely invasive, deep-rooted, non-native perennial plant
- ❖ Leafy Spurge adapts to a large variety of habitats
- ❖ Leafy Spurge competes with native and other desirable species for food, space and water
- ❖ Infested land decreases agricultural productivity by as much as 50%
- ❖ Infested land displaces wildlife habitat and food sources
- ❖ Leafy Spurge is toxic to cattle and horses
- ❖ Riparian areas and water quality are negatively impacted due to lack of diversity
- ❖ Disturbed areas such as cleared land, roadsides, construction sites and gravel pits are susceptible
- ❖ Real Estate is devalued

