

Department: **Vegetation Management**

Fund Number: **020**

Department Number: **166**

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2024 Goals:

1. Continue to develop new public outreach and education programs. Including a native thistle presentation and organic herbicide pros and cons presentation.
2. Source and seek all funding opportunities.
3. Continue ongoing training of weed assistant and seasonal hires.
4. Continue work with CDOT, USFS, BLM, CDA, and CPW.
5. Continue relationship with CDOT including mapping of County highways, and possible education program for CDOT staff.
6. Continue focused treatments on priority weed species.
7. Establish native pollinator gardens throughout Ouray County as time and labor are available.
8. Establish a plan with Road and Bridge moving forward for the maintenance of county roads in an ecologically responsible manner.
9. Continue working with Town of Ridgway for weed control, based on mechanical and herbicide control and educate the public on the pros and cons of organic herbicides. Gain awareness and move toward better weed elimination.
10. Continue discussion with County Administrator about environmental needs in Ouray County, and potential for the Weed Department to take an active role in more environmental projects.

2023 Accomplishments:

1. Applications at Ridgway State Park continued, with two new focus areas added, and an increase in the budget from CPW.
2. Applied to 4 different grant opportunities. The applications although denied would have been in excess of 100,000 dollars
3. Continued treatments from established IGA with USFS.
4. Identified weeds on multiple private residences, increasing awareness of weed issues and promoting the weed department.
5. Performed weed management on several private residences, and increased awareness of several priority species.
6. Promoted the establishment of a mechanical treatment program for all county properties.
7. Continued the application of herbicides on private property in Ouray County, to eliminate a list A species. Saw a visible reduction of the species in several areas. Added new areas for a priority species in Ouray County.
8. Increased the workload in City of Ouray, with additional areas of concern.
9. Continued educational training for both myself and assistant weed manager, reviewed new training needs for 2023/2024

10. Continued outreach and public education programs, and inserted these programs into the County website. Presented educational programs to the public including a weed walk and children's education/pull day. Continued the weed of the month campaign.
11. Reached out to landowners about weed control, and reached out to weed board members.
12. Focused treatments and monitoring of Ouray County weed projects, i.e. tamarisk, leafy spurge, meadow knapweed, and diffuse knapweed.
13. Served as a weed control expert for multiple landowners, connecting them with appropriate services.
14. Worked with County Administrator on new ideas for revenue.
15. Worked with County Administrator, Ty Barger on reseeding county roads and ideas for improvement.
16. Continued weed control with Town of Ridgway and provided herbicide treatments, and mapped infestations. Treatment areas increased. Presented to the Town Council multiple times.
17. Mapped weed infestations in Ouray County for approximately 85% of Ouray County property.
18. Met with CDOT regional weed manager to discuss the concerns in OC and SMC