

**Arundo Eradication Project
TadN Steering Committee Meeting
June 14, 2001**

Present: (list names of participants)

Insurance

Pam Romo indicated her project will have to add \$1000 to their insurance policy. They are already paying \$3,000 for it. Is there a possibility of getting an insurance policy that covers all the projects and thereby saves everyone some money? Mark Newhouser said this option is being explored.

Endangered Species

Ron Unger mentioned that it is possible to search for listed species by quads for a specific watershed. Partners will need to determine if there is suitable habitat for these species in their project area. Herbicide, noise, ground disturbance are all factors that need to be addressed. Will the species be present when you are mitigating? The applicable federal guideline here is that the work being done will have "no significant impact" on the species that are present.

The best way to approach the issue of listed species to create relationships with the agencies from which you may need to get permits. Find out who your reps are. Get them into your area and find out what they may want, rather than trying to figure it out on your own. Do this early on in your project. Also, find out which agency has regulatory authority for a specific species.

Biological Assessment Form

Participants suggested increasing space on the form for NDDDB search results, and also including the name of the local rep to the Department of Fish and Game.

--Other searches may include wildlife habitat relationships

--Reformat for entire watershed?

--Attach map of where observations made to determine presence of species currently

--agencies will tell you what matters in your area (*this contradicts next item*)

-- partners were advised to go out and check to see if listed species are still present, since database results may be outdated

--if have other program that has already been "cleared" for "no significant impact," may be able to get same clearance for your Arundo project (permitting and envir. assessment)

Core of Enginerrrs
County Dept.
Dept. F&G
USF&W Service
Rangers, state park
Flood control board

Water quality Control Board
Reclamation Districts (levees)

Permitting

- possible website with all state and federal permits and contact info.
- list put out by Estuary Institute?
- July 2001, CalFed booklet

Partners did not list cost of permits in their grant application. Mark N. is looking into the possibility of securing permits for the entire CalFed region. If this is possible, it might minimize permit costs for everyone. If permitting becomes a financial burden for partners, the Project may need to request additional funds for this.

List of methods acceptable to receive a "negative declaration"
If want to do foliar spraying, don't assume can't receive a neg. declaration.
Best strategy may be to use acceptable methods right now, and work on permission for other methods.

More difficult to receive permission on public vs. private lands. Regulatory agencies look into what types of areas have already received neg. decs., so if you can find this out, may speed approval of your work. (i.e. work under already existing permits)

Biological assessment and permitting are tied together.

Sug. to find out what S. Calif. has done and get their templates (templates of what?). (Ron Unger) Commonalities in species and issues between various riparian areas, and are only using a certain set of eradication methods. SFEI can provide info. about similar projects that have already been done in Project area.

Most of agencies that do flood control are often already covered for removing Arundo, so may be able to piggyback off of their existing permits.
(reclamation/flood control)

Site Survey Forms

Suggestions for the Site Survey Forms included:

- adding a space for "Date Completed" so we can track how long it is taking partners to complete specific tasks
- add to the weed description the number of stems and average width in a square meter
- add "percent cover by native species"

Other ideas included:

- possibly using only one form per landowner

- trying out the form at a few sites to see how well it works, before sending out a final form to all partners
- adopting a uniform protocol so everyone measures Arundo infestation beginning from left bank to right bank
- clarify the objective of photodocumentation so people will know what to take photos of
- consider how many photos will need to be taken of any one site

Deanne mentioned that one challenge will be to blend current data collection methods that are working well for partners with our new collection protocol. TadN's aim, she said, is to develop a standardized method that can be used for many types of conservation work.