

Team Arundo del Norte Meeting
October 10, 2001
Minutes

Handout: Commercial use policy- Want to have it in writing, provide feedback later on the handout.

Rountable discussion:

Jan Lowrey, Cache Creek Conservancy. Approved for a Calfed grant and a F&wS grant to do 300 acres in the lower section of Cache Creek. Using mechanical and chemical methods and cooperating with a biocontrol project. Should get started this fall with mechanical and doing spraying next spring. Trying out some mixes of Stalker and Glyphosate- supposed to be a one-shot deal, low volume application, should especially work on Tamarisk. Arundo will still need to be mulched. Permits come through the county and that is very helpful. Talent (?) Irrigation District decision about spraying regulation- big issue for us. What is the definition of aquatic application- is it application directly TO the water or over the banks? They (who?) won't give protection or help with compliance with the Clean Water Act and a certain type of treatment does not necessarily exempt you. Any application could be construed as going to a waterway because of storm drains- the issue is whether you are contaminating a waterway. Waiting to see how it will be legally defined, needs to be a discussion on this. (And there was more at the end of the meeting, which I did not capture).

Frank Wallace:

Three-part funding process, WCB and Caltrans funding called "Safeca", will be doing a large amount of volunteer work on Arundo, Tamarisk, Spanish broom, chinese tallow, sesbania which is exploding. Purposely did not include YST. Stewardship process includes the use of neighborhood association, youth groups, hikers and bikers- "family friendly initiative to teach people about stewardship. Using days like National Make-A-Difference Day to recruit volunteers and do outreach.

Jenny, USDA- just getting started. Working on getting resources together and educating the partners. Working with Mike Kern, and they may get in on the Calfed round 2.

Tony Gallegos and ?- Resource Div of Public Works Dept. County is involved in weed management and has formed a WMA. First focus is Arundo and tamarisk. Used to be teamed up with Mendo and upper Sonoma, now working within a county-wide structure, more orchestrated effort. There is a lot of public support. New to the Arundo thing- started about two years ago, hit and miss approach. There are flood zones and rules about working in them, need a more coordinated approach. Access is a major issue. Trying to do a watershed approach which makes it hard to stay within the flood control rules.

Pam Romo- Walnut Creek. County has started a watershed forum and is now looking at Arundo. They are mapping Arundo using GPS while mapping other things. Started to talk with cities upstream, they are starting to look at watershed management. Doing volunteer

coordination- students have come out and worked very hard, very enthusiastic. Chevron and several other large corporations have come out. Have done some eradication and seen it come back in weird forms- small leaves and variegated. Will be doing a second application, sticking with Rodeo. Curious about Stalker. Using professional applicators.

Gretchen Coffman- UCLA PhD candidate, working on the Santa Clara River which is heavily infested. There was an actual plantation of about 20 acres, and that was removed. Also looking at Arundo in South Africa and the influence of nutrient loading on watersheds and the invasion of Arundo. Helping with a project on Coyote Creek, using excavators and have done a huge amount in three weeks- tiny little bobcats that don't put a lot of pressure on the ground and are very effective.

Tom Dudley, UCB: Continuing with greenhouse work. Just got back from eastern Europe where they found a potential biocontrol- a wasp whose larva bores into the stem. Tim ... looking at some pathogens, we're in the very early stages of developing biocontrol. It is a long development cycle. Testing on sugarcane, corn, and other possible hosts. The testing is done in the country of origin. Arundo is considered native to India but the basis for that is somewhat unclear, based on the fact that Arundo produces no viable seed outside of India. It's hard to work out the true native distribution, especially with a plant like Arundo that has a long history of being transported by people. Tom is convinced that there are no viable seeds because it does not produce viable pollen. Recently there has been a new rule that no plant material

John... started working for the upper Eel Watershed Forum just 6 weeks ago. There is Arundo and tamarisk in the upper middle and north forks of the Eel. Invasive populations are still small and there is an opportunity to catch them. Not much resources and want

Dan Strait, FWS- Partners for Fish & Wildlife, projects doing restoration since the early 90s. Starting to do exotics removal. Working on Pleasants Creek near Winters on 4-5 acres of thick Arundo with Ulatis RCD and the landowner. Have the alteration agreement, and have decided on how to do the work by talking with the Cache Creek Conservancy people. Getting started this month. The Arundo was planted in Pleasants Creek by the CCC and NRCS, downstream reach is pretty bad. There will be a challenge to mitigate for erosion problems because it is such a downcut creek. The Arundo is forming debris dams and clogging the channel. There will be a lot of other restoration work to stabilize the banks and restore function. Would be very helpful to document the damage being done by Arundo, as it is probably the major perturbation in the watershed.

Mike Krebsbach, Monsanto- Working with a lot of different projects as a consultant. Will be able to help with our permitting and chemical use issues.

Jim Johnson with the SFC watershed council. Partner on the CalFed project- small infestation with a good chance of eradicating Arundo in SF Creek. Working on getting homeowner permissions- unfortunately the largest clump is on land that they can't seem to get permission. If the landowners won't cooperate they might try to make the plant a pest species under a county or water district ordinance so they can be forced to have it

removed. Can it be listed as a noxious weed? CDFA is working on listing it, but there is a struggle with nurserymen. They have lumped a whole bunch together with Pampas Grass and the whole list of 12 is not moving forward. The landowner thing is sometimes dealt with by getting neighbors that are allies to talk to them.

Marc Horney- Working on the Stoney Creek area with the WMA. Co-chair on ... the project to make the Oak Death Website into an Arundo mapper website for contributions of locations of Arundo. try to get the landowners to do their own mapping. Will be later in the year, and will coordinate with others.

Harry Spangler, botanist working in the Delta, becoming interested in invasives and mapping them for the Bay-Delta.

** We should set up a mapping and data coordination workshop.

Kent Nelson- working with DWR's Sarah Dinsler to include in the Urban Streams program a requirement to map Arundo. Also still working with DWR Delta flood protection program and their mapping of Arundo. They need additional funding for the mapping work.

Kristen Cooper Carter- in second year of eradication on Brickyard Creek and are working through landowner permissions which was the biggest challenge with some very challenging people to deal with. RCD rep has been very helpful in that work. Reeds Creek, and Redbank Creek are both very badly infested with Arundo and tamarisk. Working closely with Monsanto to come up with best control practices on Deer Creek. Especially challenging there because of steep banks. Stands that didn't get cut and only sprayed had the best kill rate compared to the stands that were cut and the regrowth sprayed. They are using 50-50 Stalker and Glyphosate with a careful timing strategy for the applications. Proposing a new project to CALFED on Stoney Creek. Finding that some landowners really want assurance that there won't be erosion ramifications- have a specialist coming out to address those problems. Spraying after dormancy- different every year.

** Need to get this information out for all on the website.

** Kent also suggests that we have info up on the website about all these projects

- searchable listserv archive with threaded conversations
- sections on the web on certain topics
- FAQs (people really wanted this)
- NRPI entries

Pam points out that it's helpful to ask the same questions again sometimes so we revise the answers.

A little discussion ensued about the talk on the listserv, and responding to people who might suggest uninformed or inappropriate techniques or chemicals.

Do we want longer meetings and more workshop style, with presentations? People say it's helpful and we might as well spend the whole day when we meet. Everyone is invited to present their work.

What is the latest on the herbicides?

People don't like herbicides that they haven't heard of and the more information the better. Another presentation would be welcome.

Mike K.- Stalker is an American Cyanamid product, sister to Arsenal which has been used primarily on tamarisk. The mix with Glyphosate is especially effective. Stalker is not aquatic-approved, so you can't use it in the water. Rodeo is now called Aquamaster. They are both amino-acid inhibitors, it is thought that 6 amino acids are being inhibited with the combination. Not a complete foliar treatment- want to use a low-volume directed spray with the combination. It has been in use for years by road crews. Another area of investigation is low-volume with just Glyphosate. Arundo application is new with the combination. Mike agrees with Bob's combinations, their amounts and the oil: 5% Roundup, 3% Stalker, 10% Mentholated Seed Oil. The % is the % in the water- using 5 gallons of water per acre. Most successful are the high concentrations in low-volume. Long-term approach: spray on a complete stand, leave it alone a long time. It translocates more slowly than the glyphosate molecule, and they are both very effective translocators. It's slow, but very effective. There's a big difference in terms of visible symptoms between 1 and 5%. Also the hasin oil speeds up the brown-out time. using a 1506 or 4006 nozzle-head, the droplets are large enough that they don't effect non-target plants. The time per plant is very small, and can move through a large area or through rough terrain with a small load going a long way. Preventing the need for retreatments is also an objective. Cuts costs and amount of herbicide.

Tom says you might want to do the cutting early in the season, because it sends the plant into a semi-dormancy. You want there to be enough growth to get the translocation going down again. Timing is very site-specific. Spraying the actively growing plants will not be as effective.

Kristen says don't forget to use dye!

** get Bob's video and slides up on the web, showing the Zorro-method of spraying.

** Get the Roundup Pro label and look for paragraph on the Z-pattern and backpack instructions.

Pam- What about the temperature on the day you spray? There was a situation on a hot day that resulted in overspray. Mike replied that there is no temperature statement on the label, but you do need to be aware that you shouldn't apply above a certain temperature. Also the equipment set-up really needs to be appropriate.

Pam- How close to a waterway can you be to use Stalker? 15 feet back from the top of the bank or just not IN the water? There seem to be a lot of different answers. Mike- It varies by product and whether it has aquatic approval. With Roundup Pro it is up to the applicator to be responsible and not get it in the water. With Stalker, it has not received aquatic approval- not sure why, and if there will be approval in the future. Roundup will only stay inside the root system, Amazipir has the capability to move out of the root system to roots touching the treated plant, so you have to watch out for touching root systems.

Then Deanne gave her presentation on the next steps in the Surveying Protocol.

Then there was a huge discussion about the new NPDES Clean Water Act regulations. Very serious liability exposure, and will apply to our work. Need to capture that information- get help summarizing it from Mike Krebsbach who said it so well.