

**TAdN General Meeting
Feb. 19, 2003 (AM)**

Those present: James Navicky (CDFG), Mark Rohweder (Bitterroot Restoration), John Watson (Cache Creek Conservancy), Marla Macombrie (USFWS), Kim Klementowski (CUS, Chico), Erin Williams (USFWS, Stockton), Lily Verdone (AEP, Sonoma Ecology Center), Phil Blake (NRCS), Kristin Cooper-Carter (CSU, Chico), Frank Wallace (CNPS, American River Parkway), Debbie North (SJ River Parkway), Mark Newhouser (AEP, Sonoma Ecology Center), Bob Hass (AEP, Sonoma Ecology Center).

Dept. F&G, Placer, Yolo, Solano Cty.

Bear River: potential for habitat restoration (near Marysville to Feather River). Major Arundo problem, including center stream channel, forcing a lot of gravel movement downstream, habitat degrading rapidly. Funding is key. In first phase of project. Int. in first steps using TAdN protocols.

Sonoma Creek/AEP

Removed one of largest patches in watershed. Two interns are mapping all Arundo sites in the watershed so know what working with and how to prioritize those sites. Also helping start Arc IMS map server. Hope to incorporate a querying ability.

Napa River

Most of focus in Napa River watershed. County, SEC, flood-control dist. involved. Board of Supervisors created Napa River Watershed Info. Center. Includes Napa River Conservancy (currently 9 individuals)—effort focuses on watershed monitoring activities, working to develop database overlay of the watershed that will include things such as mapping of Arundo.

Napa County is primarily private land. Most of eradication work therefore being conducted on private lands. Lot of public sensitivity, so we try to work with private landowners to introduce concepts and get people comfortable with land stewardship, water quality, fish. Focus: 1) appreciate the problem, 2) develop core level of trust so can work with various agencies. Had been polarization of various groups when developed the watershed-wide Napa River taskforce. About 50% time spent working with people, 50% working to improve natural system.

Will voluntary incentives still work? Basis of stewardship is education and getting people to do the right thing. Most powerful debates going on locally are regarding how much government should dictate about use of the land.

Bitterroot Restoration/Mark Rohweder

San Diego office, San Juan Capistrano WS, 10-acre litigation site for city, 6 acres with heavy Arundo infestation has been removed. Are now revegetating the site, going into 3rd year of maintenance. Largest project we've done. Football-field sized area 2-3' deep is covered with Arundo biomass. Was lots of resprouting, less so now.

CNPS/Frank Wallace

Comprehensive vision to promote environmental stewardship throughout region; ties to schools, youth organizations, church groups, neighborhood associations, etc. Luxury to have a restoration area surrounded by about 25 high schools, 55 middle schools, many of which have community service requirements. Also, Sacramento hosts campus for Americorps program—lots of young people in it looking for projects of up to 80 hrs.

Only designated national scenic river site within urban area. 26 miles between Folsom Dam and confluence with Sacramento River. About 5600 acres on the American River Parkway. Sesbania is a very serious problem. Sesbania removal is being done by hand or with weed wrenches.

USFWS/Stockton/Erin Williams

New non-native species coordinator headquartered in Stockton area.

Cache Creek Conservancy/ John Watson

Wildlife conservation board grant. Doing aerial mapping of Arundo and tamarisk. Contracted with local farmer to do the spraying. 65% completed
Will go back, especially on Arundo resprouts (even where treated twice), probably for 4-5 yrs. Are doing revegetating work. Usually offer spring seminar for people. Last December offered a revegetation workshop for landowners. Hope landowners will be able to take care of invasives once project is over. Revegetating with willows on bottom, on top are planting deergrass, coyote bush. Irrigating with tailwater off of farmers fields. Will probably have to irrigate for two years. Dug trenches for willows four feet deep; hope they will be able to get water from stream on their own.

Big Chico Creek/ Kim Klementowski

Mapping Arundo on Big Chico Creek for thesis. Trying to help Butte County WMA become better coordinated. Used to be involved a bit with TAdN/Parks Dept. Reserve, involved in some bank restabilization.

San Joaquin River Parkway/ Debbie North

Local and larger efforts to restore 150 miles of the river.
Conservation, recreation, and education efforts to educate people about the river. The parkway has a mosaic of ownerships: multiple public owners, multiple private owners. It has been turning into a sesbania habitat, interspersed with Arundo and tamarisk.

Currently are suffering from volunteer burnout and turnover. Pool of people they draw from has limited transportation. When schools lose funding, lose buses, so can't get kids out there. Hiring new field person. Working on weed management plan funded by Bureau of Reclamation. Identifying non-natives with highest potential for invading. Flow dries up west of Fresno, which right now is a good thing since are tons of weeds

in that area. CEQA compliance issues associated with invasive weed removal are becoming problematic.

USFWS/Marla Macombrie

Current project: SF Estuary Invasive Spartina Project. Programmatic rather than site-specific

CSU, Chico/Kristin Cooper-Carter

Deer Creek final report is complete. Control measures employed have been extremely successful. Main concern in the area now is tamarisk. Currently chairing Big Chico Creek Water Alliance.

The two morning speakers gave PowerPoint presentations on erosion control and bank stabilization methods that can be used in weed eradication efforts.

**TAdN Arundo Eradication Program
Steering Committee Meeting
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Suggested CALFED Research Topics

- Herbicide trials comparing time of year, stage of growth, and tank mixes for greatest efficacy.
- How do you determine the best restoration methodology in the absence of historical or ecological reference points?
- How temperature fluctuations and seasonal change affect the timing and efficacy of Arundo herbicide treatment.
- What are the best methods for stabilizing a stream bank while weed control is in process?
- How effective are eradication methods that do not use herbicides? (e.g., tarping, low-impact excavation, etc.)?

Note: We need to locate descriptions of different field trial methodologies. Also need to find out from CALFED how big field trials should be.

Funding

Kristen provided a Resources Agency print out of funding sources. The sources haven't been updated in a while, but will soon when funding is allocated.

Current CALFED RFP should be out in March. Proposals would be due around May.

Marla - Programmatic document for site-specific projects to tier off of
We need to prove that Arundo work is successful.

TAdN funding is needed for ongoing monitoring, data analysis, research, communication, and public education.

Need funding to develop an overall management strategy that includes restoration protocols for different habitat types and perhaps a broader array of weeds.