

**TADN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
December 9, 2005**

**Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Resource Center
Davis, California**

Members present included: Susan Mason (Lindo Channel), Kristin-Cooper Carter (Lindo Channel), Frank Wallace (Lower American River), Todd Adams (Napa River), Lia McLaughlin (USFWS), Rob Hill (Gray Lodge Wildlife Area), Rich Marovich (Putah Creek), Pat Daniels (SEC), Mark Newhouser (SEC), Bob Hass (SEC), Steve Spratt (San Joaquin River), Ron Unger (EDAW).

Program Updates/Discussion

Hook up Ron Unger with Reclamation Board regarding possibility of blanket permits for project w/Arundo eradication.

Subcontracts

Most have been received. Do not yet have USDA (experimental component) or EDAW (programmatic permitting) contracts. Still need to refine and negotiate mutually acceptable language.

USFWS and NOAA letters of concurrence that Rich Marovich negotiated on behalf of the project's five original partners is still in effect.

Mark will send EDAW scope of work to all partners for them to double check.

Project time extension/amendment request

12-month extension request has been submitted (see Mark's handout). Partners have option to extend their work or not, depending on money they have left. Assumption is partners will want to do this in order to have an additional season of eradication. Program is requesting \$167,000 for this purpose.

CBDA monitoring/evaluation proposal

This funding opportunity targets existing projects within CALFED's ERP. Our plan is to resubmit the proposal based on the funds that said they would give us. Are we adding value to habitat where Arundo eradication is occurring?

Decision: All partners present indicated desire to have the additional funds to extend their monitoring work, since they intend to continue monitoring indefinitely. Some monitoring may include grading.

WIMS development and staff

USDA team should be able to help strengthen the WIMS protocols to make them more effective and practical. Issue was raised regarding problems with the current wording for identifying clumps and for describing "percent dead." We will need to refine these

protocols. Also need to make connections between other weed protocols already being used and piloted. Given amount of money CBDA is offering, group agreed it was unrealistic to attempt to develop WIMS protocols for more than one weed. However, WIMS could at least indicate the presence or absence of other weeds near Arundo sites. Even that is very useful data, and collecting it requires relatively little additional time, so it is quite cost effective. It will also provide information on what other invasives come in after Arundo is removed. Recommend using the terms high, medium, or low cover rather than percentages, or possibly ranges of coverage, since individuals' ability to measure percentages varies so greatly.

Phase 1 data and reports

We are currently entering projects' data into the program database for the purpose of analyzing and preparing the end-of-project report for Phase 1 (due late March 2006). Among other things, the final report will summarize the amount of Arundo in the project areas, how much was treated, success rates, and the cost of person hours to accomplish this.

WIMS doesn't have hyperlinks now, but version 4 will allow this, as well as including entire photos. Someone wanted to know whether partners will be getting ArcPad6 or 7. Version 7 won't work with WIMS. The program will get partners licenses for Version 7 so they can upgrade.

The group then discussed issues related to treatment costs. Is it possible to include in the final report the cost per acre of treatment? There will probably not be sufficient data to calculate this. May have to rely on individual records of partner projects. Will there be a matrix by county of the different methods being used? Probably not. However, as we revise WIMS we should keep this need in mind. It was suggested that the program get figures on cost *per method* rather than *cost per acre*. May need to provide a range of cost, since it will likely vary depending on such things as the terrain and treatment method. CDFG also has its own set of standards for certain costs, so it may also be useful to investigate those.

Dec. 15 is deadline for partners to get their permitting related information to Ron Unger at EDAW. Partners should feel free to contact Ron or Eric if they have any questions.

Eradication Partner tasks and updates

Budget template/questions

Any partners that still haven't completed this need to do so as soon as possible.

Eradication plan preparation

Use the checklist as a guide.

Partner updates and discussion

EDAW needs to know what type of ground disturbance methods partners are considering using or want to use, the boundary of their project area, any information on sensitive species that are likely to occur in the project area, and specific locations of known sensitive species. Have only received information from three partners so far. Until have information from all partners, can't proceed with program-wide permitting. As a reminder, there are many resources partners can draw upon to gather this information, such as CNPS, CNDDDB, local biologists and other experts, and staff at local agencies.

New or unfinished business

The next meeting date was set for Friday, March 3, 2006, 10-12, at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.