

TAdN Steering Committee Meeting
June 1, 2007
Davis, CA

Those present included: Mark Newhouser, Jessie Olson, Deanne DiPietro, Pat Stiefer, Zhahai Stewart, Bob Hass, SEC; Dave Spencer, USDA, UC Davis; Frank Wallace, Gena Lasco, CNPS; Susan Mason, CSU, Chico; Chris Sauer, Napa County FCWCD; Carolyn Ruttan, Lake County Dept. Public Works; Mark Snyder, Solano County Water Agency; Sharon Weaver, Shane Barrow, San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust.

Program Updates and Discussion

We've gone through four amendment requests (formal changes to scope of work and/or funding and extension of time). There are two that have been recently addressed: the one-year extension to complete work due to late contracting, along with some additional funds. This one was approved, although we have not received an official contract on this yet. As soon as we do, you will be receiving an amendment for your own contracts for that one-year extension.

The other amendment we attempted was for program permitting—to complete the process EDAW was doing. We put in a tremendous amount of work for this request. It bore some fruit, in that F&G took on CEQA. However, we were told the day before the “hearing” that CBDA is not funding any additional projects or amendments because they had allocated all existing Proposition 50 funds. EDAW is not here because they have exhausted their funds. We need to discuss later today what we want and need to do regarding permitting.

Monitoring and Evaluation proposal, which went through a directed action and complete rewrite, and even had a recommended funding amount, will not be funded. It was to work in concert with this project to support development of an enhanced database and partners' collection of data. Funds ran out which is why it will not be funded.

Data Coordination and Mapping

GeoWeed software upgrade is vastly improved over WIMS. We added desktop computer functionality. We are making sure all of your software is installed. Software development is never done, so partner feedback is encouraged and can be continual. This will help us collect and manage good data to be analyzed and shared with others. Ongoing long-term weed tracking.

Later we can look at data submittals we've received from partners. We want to make sure you can collect your baseline and monitoring data. [Deanne: What have you made optional for partners, and why? Tracking changes in vegetation community?] Hopefully we'll see trends in partner work that can be compared to trends from David Spencer's research.

Mapserver currently includes partner baseline data. Mapping task is going quite well. We've gotten some nice input and guidance from academics at UC Davis and Point

Reyes Bird Observatory. We're picking out species that indicate health of stream habitat areas. This project evaluates habitat use for salmon, frogs, birds, and a couple of mammals, and the quality of that habitat. We've collected all Arundo data we could find for Bay-Delta so we can share a map of this data. It's on the CERES website. Now we're doing field mapping to fill in the gaps. Key question—how do you value habitat and made a judgment as to which habitat is most valuable? Once we do we'll be constructing a map of priority habitat areas—one that ranks areas for Arundo eradication. Should be completed later in 2007.

Programmatic Permitting

Option we're looking at is scaling back our project areas from the original designation of entire watersheds. Other option is to use the Chico model and through an informal consultation process with USFWS, map all sensitive habitat in project area and then indicate it will be avoided when doing eradication work, including specifying avoidance measures. Then it should be possible to receive a no-take determination. Partners will need to ask if have resources to collect this data. Can cut and paste avoidance measures from what others have done. Sharon has been doing elderberry mapping. Can map within 100 feet of all Arundo clusters (Susan and Frank have done this).

Frank and Sharon still need to consult with FWS; Susan has already done this. Mark already has the permitting needed in Putah Creek. Chris has some red-legged frog habitat in the Napa area. Carolyn has permitting for her project (were able to extend the length of permitting from Prop. 13 grant). San Francisquito Creek is the only partner that has not yet received a categorical exemption.

Regulatory agencies told Mark that the regulatory compliance project description was quite weak, and lacked needed specifics regarding avoidance techniques for listed species. We did meet with Sustainable Conservation and got some useful information from them. Historic agency distrust of consultants may also have played a role in AECF not getting any regional permits.

Experimental Design

We have been focusing on evaluating revegetation efforts and herbicide experiments. Preliminary results from the experiment that evaluates 3 different concentrations of glyphosate, 1.5%, 3%, and 5%, suggest that herbicide efficacy may differ geographically. We hope to be able to tell what may account for these differences once more data are available. We are preparing to make June treatment in an experiment regarding treatment times of year (i.e., is there a best time to treat Arundo?). We are collecting extensive measurements of plant responses. This is because conclusions about efficacy vary when looking at leaf color in contrast with examining the number of new stems the following year. We are also collecting data to use with the HEC-RAS model from a location in Stony Creek.

Eradication Task Update

Carolyn: Have arrived at optimal treatment method: 4% glyphosate, cut, resprout, and spray, but wait until *Arundo* resprouts reach at least 4 feet. Cut in fall, spray around late May/early June. Over one year of time, have had no resprouts so far. [Carolyn: Do you add ammonium sulfate with glyphosate to neutralize Ph and increase efficacy? Says it's on every glyphosate label now.) Using Roundup Pro, which has surfactant already in it.

Mark, Putah Creek: Have been using 3% glyphosate mixed with surfactants. Spray in fall and winter. Volume is key—spray *entire* surface area of biomass, then leave it in place. Once is 2 years old, high flows take it away.

Next Meeting: Friday, September 7, 2007