

**TAdN Steering Committee Meeting  
December 14, 2007  
Davis, CA**

Those attending: Carolyn Ruttan, Lake County DPW; Mark Snyder, Rich Marovich, Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Council; Greg Ksander, USDA; Steve Rodriguez, DFG; Chris Sauer, Napa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District; Sharon Weaver, San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust; Frank Wallace, Sacramento Weed Warriors/CNPS; Deanne DiPietro, Mark Newhouser, Bob Hass, Zhahai Stewart, Sonoma Ecology Center.

**Program Updates and Discussion (Mark Newhouser)**

AECP went through a budget transfer request that has just been approved. Monies from the eradication support services task can now be used for partners during the one-year extension period. Modest requests for partners in need of additional funds were approved, and subcontracts went out last week. The other part of the budget transfer request was to finish up the permitting process.

GCAP holds back 10% of funds until program can show completion of all tasks, so final payment to partners won't occur until after March 2008.

**Data Coordination and Mapping (Zhahai Stewart, Deanne DiPietro)**

Geoweed: The inspiration for GeoWeed: person collects data in field, it is entered into the database, data from all partners is then put into one place. Are adding data from other sites around state and sharing it. Arundo data is now available through BIOS, Dept. of F&G server.

GeoWeed Update: In June 2007 we released Version 3.1 Current version of 3.3 fixes bugs and includes new features. Plan is to have all partners using latest version sometime soon. If data is to be shared, it is really important that the quality of the data is as high as possible.

Nice feature in the new version is error checking, which helps you check accuracy and completeness of data you have entered.

Concept of a "stack" or collection of data is something GeoWeed allows you to create. Soon we hope to implement the ability to allow data to be shown on a map within the GeoWeed program, and make a stack by using the lasso to select points and polygons on the map. AECP partners have really been on the "cutting edge" of data development software, and their willingness to learn and provide feedback has been great. Partner feedback has been instrumental in guiding the development of GeoWeed, and we are grateful for all of your input.

Someone suggested presenting a workshop on how partners can analyze and best use the data they have collected. The intention has always been for GeoWeed to be a management tool. We will try to put such a workshop together in 2008.

Part of the project is to aggregate the data and then make it available online. Currently we have data from AECOP partners and 24 other partners, shared online, which is now the most comprehensive map of Arundo infestations in northern California. Issue was raised as to whether partners feel landowners would be ok having data on Arundo occurrences available to the general public via the Web. Deanne mentioned the option of including a disclaimer on the site about the accuracy of the locations for any landowners who might be sensitive about this. Partners expressed optimistic views about their landowners' response to this and promised to take it up with them if they feel it necessary. We decided to move forward with just the disclaimer.

Mapping Task Update: Now have enough data to look at prioritizing most critical habitat areas where Arundo is found. We are now in the stage of developing habitat valuation maps and preparing to analyze with Arundo location data to prioritize areas for restoration value. In creating this priority map, we will take into account umbrella species habitat and upstream propagation pressure, but are not incorporating sediment impacts, water quality, and economic impacts.

Deadline for partner submittal of data: 15<sup>th</sup> of month preceding due date for each quarterly report. Zhahai will send out reminder email. Two weeks later partners will also receive a reminder from Mark regarding quarterly report *and* data submittal.

#### **Programmatic Permitting (Mark Newhouser)**

Phase 1 partners had had an informal consultation with F&W Service, which secured our regulatory compliance with those agencies. Since was no expiration date on our letter of concurrence, we offered to update our maps with Arundo occurrences and that was accepted. For Phase 2 partners, however, we plan to use what we refer to as the "Chico" strategy of creating a map with sensitive species on it. By implementing avoidance measures based on the map locations, the intent is that our work will have no effect on these species. Hopefully over the winter we can complete this process. Mark will take partner map information, incorporating it into \_\_\_\_\_, and compile it into a package presented to F&W Service within the first quarter of 2008. (Mark will be working with Phase 2 partners to clarify what is needed to move forward with permitting, including mapping sensitive species.)

#### **Experimental Design (Greg Ksander, USDA)**

Finished evaluating all treated plots. Harvested stems and dug rhizomes from every treated plot. Put in ideal growing conditions. None of stems resprouted, none of rhizomes regrew. We are in the process of evaluating our experiment treating Arundo at different times of the year: April, June, August. Currently are finishing up all transect work, in an attempt to answer what plants move in once Arundo is removed. We have been to every plot.

*Question: When does efficacy drop once weather turns cooler? Is there any correlation between temperature and timing of treatments?*

Answer: We treated Arundo in December and January with stem injection using glyphosate. Treated Arundo using foliar spray in October and November and got good results. It worked very well. We have temperature probes at many of our sites.

Question: *When will you be done with revegetation plots?*

Answer: We plan on coming back in spring 2008 to complete our work.

A partner mentioned that when undertaking restoration after Arundo has been killed, there may be value in getting native trees established first before planting understory plants. Taking into account elevation is critical to success with active revegetation and getting plants well established.

### **Partner Updates**

Frank Wallace (Sacramento Area Creeks): Concentrating most of work on Arcade Creek, a heavily incised creek, where some of channels are 15 feet deep. Dramatic soil erosion. Have treated 30 of 50 clusters with regrowth using foliar application.

Chris Sauer (Napa River): Spraying standing Arundo is most effective with glyphosate alone. We sprayed last year 2.5% in October. Came back in April, cut part of stands we had sprayed. Let rest of it go because ran out of crew time. Found that of canes we had cut in April, we got 90% kill, but ones we didn't cut had 99% kill. Apparently herbicide activity was continuing from the glyphosate which accounted for the much higher kill rate. The cutting in April stimulated regrowth that may have interfered with glyphosate getting to the tip of the plant. We're going to pay more attention to this next year. Cutting may have stimulated regrowth. We also noticed the regrowth was more vigorous than the plants we didn't cut.

Sharon Weaver (San Joaquin River): One of exciting things we've done is bring together a large group of agencies working on San Joaquin River to a launch funding initiative to combat large sesbania problem. Fortunately the largest Arundo infestations have been on public lands so have been quite accessible. Didn't treat Arundo this year since F&W issue was not worked out.

Carolyn Ruttan (Upper Cache Creek): Have been removing biomass by the ton in preparation for spring regrowth, and will not spray it until August or September, at which time it will be about six feet tall. Won't use imazapyr because grape growers are very concerned about the drift—herbicide can drift up to 3 miles and still kill grapevines.

Rich Marovich (Putah Creek): Have been successfully enrolling "holdout" landowners who had been reluctant to remove Arundo from their property. Trying to line up folks on both sides of Pleasants Creek so don't have to worry about whose property is getting sprayed. County had spent \$200,000 to repair bank but ignored the Arundo, which then caused further problems. Are trying to get County to recognize the need to deal more systematically with bank stability issues by dealing with both problems simultaneously.

**Next Meeting: Friday, March 7, 2008**