

TAdN Steering Committee Meeting
September 5, 2008
Conference Call - Meeting Minutes

10:00 – 10:10 Introductions/Present

Julie Carlson, Deanne Dipietro, Susan Strachan - Chico, Caroline Ruttan – Upper Cache Ck, Greg Dill – Upper Cache Ck, Greg Cassanders - USDA, Rob Hill - Butte County Grey Lodge, Frank Wallace - American River, Bryan Collins – San Joaquin River.

Program updates and discussion:

- Project timeline reminder

The project ends in March and we must start considering our wrap-up. We have the remaining five partners, four have signed off. Please think about your reports, and fill out questionnaires (questionnaires to be resent to partners by SEC). Feedback needed by October 1st deadline. We will assist each partner in an examination of your data, and will help you quantify what you have accomplished.

Action Item: Resend Questionnaires to partners, partners to provide filled-out questionnaire by the 10/01/08 deadline.

We want to continue the GeoWeed program and SEC wants to provide support, and will be seeking funds to help update and keep it running. The software is free.

Action - Susan Strachan to write a support letter to assist in the search for funding.

- Data Coordination and Mapping Tasks

Bryan has developed a draft priority map for habitat and a poster for the Cal-IPC conference. Deanne will be going to Cal-IPC to present the poster and Bryan will write up a final report. We still want to list high priority Watersheds, so that it can be useful for other organizations.

- Programmatic Permitting

Permitting requirements for the remaining partners are completed.

- Experimental Design (USDA ARS)

Report by Greg Cassanders, USDA on some of the results from the herbicide trials: One of the experiments used stem injections with different percentages of Aquamaster (Glyphosate). When it was applied only to 25% of a clump there was evidently not translocation to the rest of the clump and after a year there was re-growth. The method, which consists of drilling a hole at the second node and shooting herbicide into the

stems, is very time consuming and requires two people, but has been very successful when applied to the majority of the stems across an entire clump.

5% provided excellent control using bend and spray and foliar spray. Bend and spray is good for preventing contamination with other plants but is very time consuming; regular foliar sprays when possible has been equally as effective and takes less time.

Dave Spencer is on the road reporting on Arundo eradication experiments.

Need to continue to monitor (have been doing it for three years.) The HECRAS hydrologic modeling is another component of the research project. It identifies effect of Arundo in water channels on water flow. Most of data collection is done.

American River Parkway, Arundo treated for first time in 2005, by 2006 dead. This year new shoots, lower level roots are not giving up easy. Maps and forms that demonstrates monitoring progress. The distinction is that volunteers do matter. With the smaller clusters with smaller shoots, we are digging them out, not spraying. Imazipyr (Habitat) and Aquamaster combination is working well. We wish we had done a comparison with combination herbicide and just Aquamaster.

- Partner updates – 5 min

Frank - undertaking final removal at Folsom. It is taking longer than expected. It is an Eagle scout community project. Recently hired additional student intern. Will be working with Zhaihai and we will get all the information into Geoweed by mid Dec.

FYI - Invited by public radio station along with American Heartland, to speak on Arundo eradication.

Susan - completed last monitoring in June. Provided data to SEC. Contractor is scheduled to do the last year of eradication with focus on re-sprout. We have had quite a bit of success over the last two years, and will be wrapping up this month.

Rob - State Budget costs, reduced field work. The last of the survey was completed on Grey Lodge. Will need to take data and enter into Geo weed. Spread sheet might be useful to others. We do research in addition to eradication. Geoweed data processing slows down the process a lot. Use of tables that would make it a lot easier. The people that go into the field, just have to fill in the blanks, and it is streamlined. Because Geoweed is driven by Access, it is much more difficult to use, but I can see how it is helpful for research.

Aerial applications from DFG, the time frames were good, but it is difficult. The helicopter needs to be flown like an aircraft in order to economize fuel @\$1400/hour. Because pilot must look at the ground all the time, it can be very sickening to flyers. However, you can cover 600 acres for one hour application. Later on in the year, Arundo is easier to see. Now that the results are seen, DFG back on board. We are trying to figure out how to see the Arundo for next round. 10,000 acres under the

control of one (our) organization. There is little to be concerned about collateral damage. Willows recover very well.

Greg - Upper Cache To date we have mapped 832 clumps and 809 treated with a 32% kill rate. Geoweed has been a great help. Instead of the labor intensive entering in, with the Geoweed, it is simply pushing buttons with the handheld. This will save us time, in monitoring changes. It took several weeks to learn but once we did it has been very useful. The handheld has streamlined everything. CDFA is auditing weed management areas and funding a lack of monitoring. The next line of funding requires that monitoring be shown.

Action Item - Greg to write letter of support for continued GeoWeed funding.

Brian Collin – San Joaquin. We started eradication work two months ago after finally getting approval from USFWS. I am trying to use all resources at the same time. We will get as much as we can get done in the remaining period.

Deanne - reflected on the fact that she feels like others would be inspired by the partners' different stories. The final report might give us the opportunity to publicize our variety of experiences and the accompanying results. Perhaps write it story style, elaborating on helicopter experiences, volunteer experiences, etc.

Mark will provide a template to follow to capture your information. We can wrap up with what we have learned about our experience. The other point is to benefit the larger community, perhaps distributed through IPSE. There is a wealth of information here.

Action Item – Mark to provide a document to capture information from partners for the final report.

Final comments:

We should start thinking about the final report. We hope to have the time for everyone to see each other's draft. We can send it out for circulation at its conclusion.

Frank - One quick note on tracking volunteers on prevailing wages; to put on TADN list serve. Please send your letters to your politician to support AB2537.

Brian - Being relatively new to the Arundo del Norte, this has been really useful to have someone to check in with. I learned more on Arundo in two weeks, than I have on any other invasive species.

11:30 Next meeting date- December 5, hopefully at Yolo Bypass.

Adjournment - 11:00 am

