

THE AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT PROJECT

(ARP IPMP) PHASE 1



Peter Buck – Sacramento Area Flood
Control Agency (SAFCA)
Loran May – May and Associates, Inc.



Peter Buck

SAFCA

- Specialist in habitat restoration with an emphasis in riparian ecosystems.
- Responsible for coordinating the implementation of the American River Invasive Plant Management Project following its initial planning phase.
- Prior to coming to SAFCA, Mr. Buck operated an environmental consulting firm on the Queen Charlotte Islands, BC. Mr. Buck is a graduate from the University of Toronto and has a degree in Forestry and Wildlife Management.

Loran May

May & Associates, Inc.

- Loran May is a biologist with over 17 years of experience, including biological surveys, permitting, mitigation monitoring, and habitat restoration.
- She is currently assisting the County of Sacramento and the SAFCA with the American River Invasive Plant Management Project.





Overview

- **ARP IPMP Phase 1 - part of a multi year three phase project designed to deal with the most invasive plants in the ARP**
- **Project planning phase began in 1997 by a group of four independent scientists**
- **Recognition that invasive plants constitute a significant and growing threat to the ARP due to negative impacts on:**



Threats from Invasive Plants

- Loss of Riparian Habitat Values and Function
- Increased Wildfire
- Loss of Recreational Use & Enjoyment
- Reduction in Flood Channel Capacity



Overview Cont.

In 1997, four organizations partnered to develop the American River Parkway Invasive Plant Management Project (ARP IPMP).

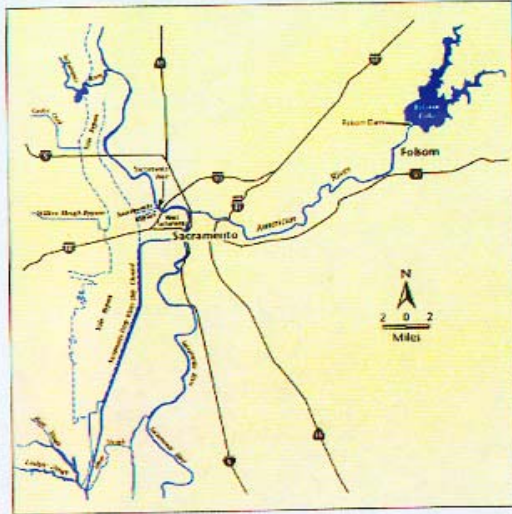
- Eva Butler & Assoc/California Native Plant Society
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
- American River Flood Control District

A decorative header strip at the top of the slide. It features a collage of nature-related images: a close-up of a green leaf on the left, a bird in flight in the center, and a blue, rocky or crystalline structure on the right.

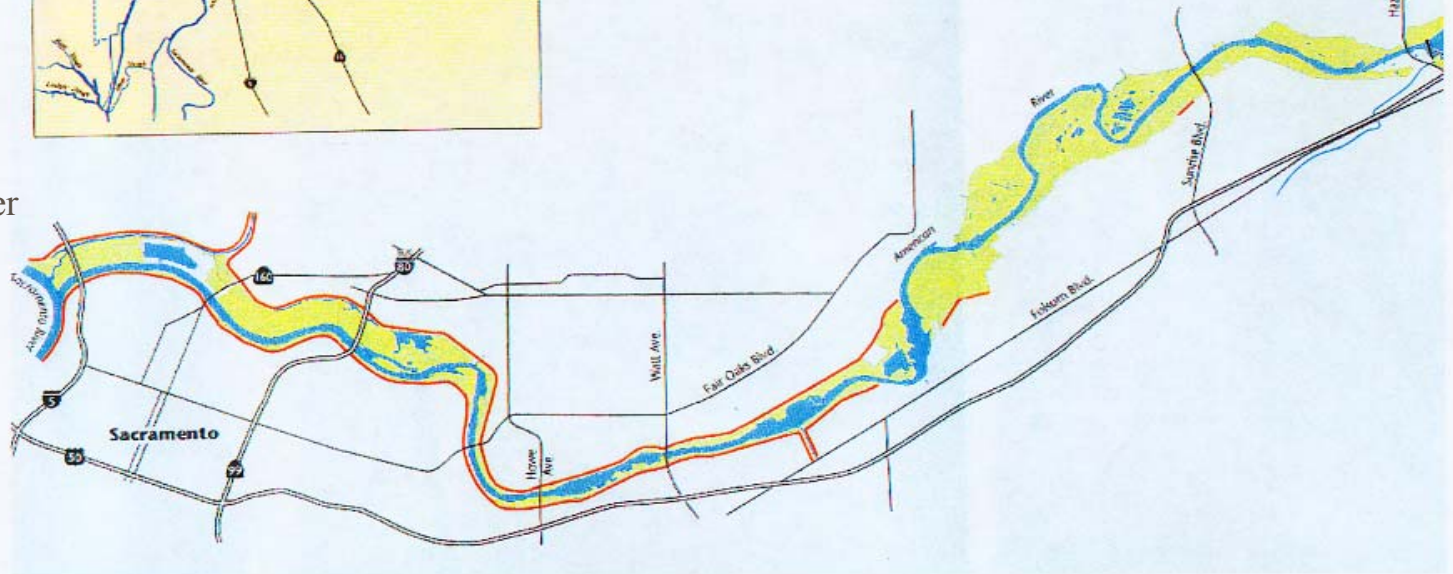
■ Goal of Planning Phase:

Develop recommendations for managing invasive non-native plants to reduce their negative impacts on beneficial uses of the 4,700-acre, 23-mile American River Parkway open space corridor.

American River Parkway



Sac River



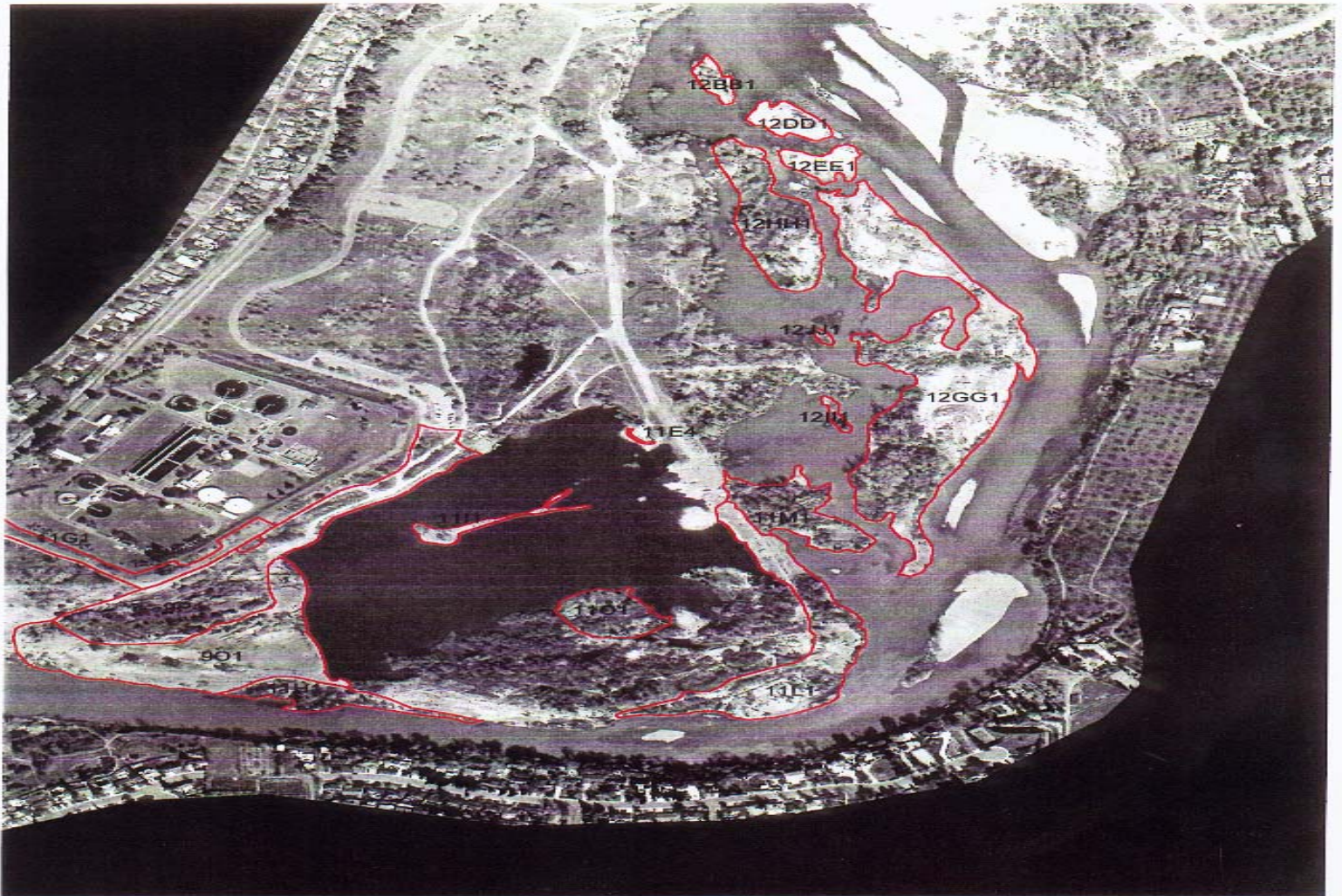


Overview Cont.

- **Extensive field surveys and GIS mapping identified locations and coverage of over 140 species of non-native plants.**

- **Target invasive plants were ranked in 4 tiers on the basis of their:**
 - * Invasion rate
 - * Water consumption
 - * Wildfire fuel
 - * Floodwater impedance
 - * Habitat loss
 - * Recreation

American River Parkway Exotic Plant Management Project
William B. Pond Recreation Area



Map 3. A sample of areas containing Scarlet Wisteria Tree (*Sesbania punicea*).



A decorative header strip at the top of the slide. It is divided into three sections: the left section shows a close-up of a green plant with a yellow flower; the middle section shows a bird in flight over a body of water; the right section shows a close-up of blue and purple flowers.

Phase 1 - Tier 1 Invasive Plants

- Currently Tier 1 invasive plants occupy 653 acres in the American River Parkway

Chinese Tallow Tree

(Sapium sebiferum) 94 acres



Red Sesbania (*Sesbania punicea*)

114 acres



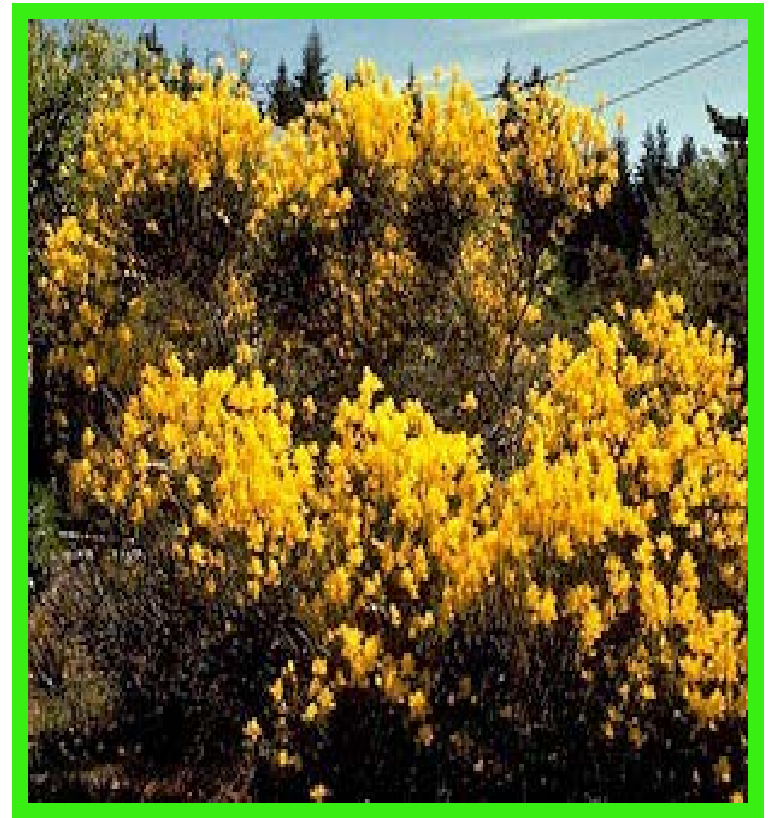
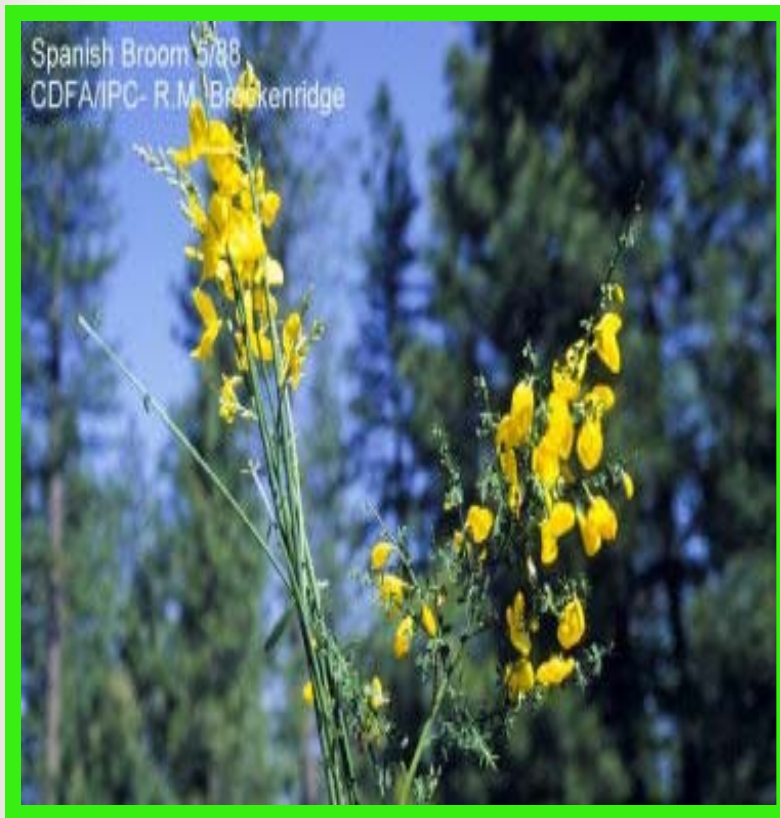
Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*)

59 acres



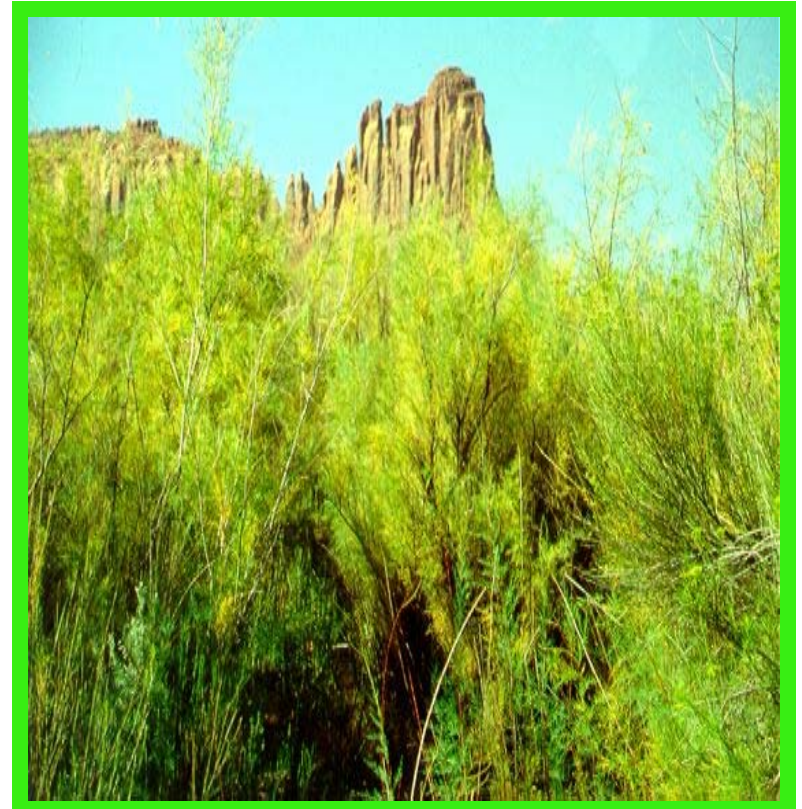
Spanish Broom (*Spartium junceum*)

262 acres



Tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*)

< 1 acre





Pilot Invasive Plant Management Projects

- Conducted herbicide tests to determine what worked best for controlling:
 - Giant Reed
 - Spanish Broom
 - Yellow Star Thistle
 - Tree of Heaven



Funding for Phase 1 of the ARP IPMP

- Wildlife Conservation Board's Riparian Habitat Conservation Program
- CalTrans Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program
- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
- Total: \$630,000 over three years



Management Advisory Committee

Project Oversight

- Government:
 - * Federal (USBR, USFWS)
 - * State (DFG, DWR)
 - * Local (Sacramento County Parks, SAFCA)
- Technical Advisory (Consultants)
- Community (ECOS)
- May & Associates – Project Management



Operational Implementation

2002-2003

- Professional Eradication Crew
- Sacramento Weed Warriors

Navigating the Regulatory Maze: Planning for the Regulatory Process During Weed Control and Eradication Projects





Environmental Regulations That May Pertain to Weed Control Projects

1. Federal Clean Water Act Section 404
2. Federal and State Endangered Species Acts
3. NEPA and CEQA
4. Streambed Alteration Agreement



Environmental Regulations That May Pertain to Weed Control Projects (cont.)

5. Aquatic Weed Projects

- a) General Permit from State Water Resources Quality Control Board
- b) NPDES Permit

6. Other Environmental Regulations and Permits

- a) Burn Permits
- b) Herbicide/ Pesticide Regulations
- c) Site Access Agreements

Tips on Planning a Weed Eradication Project



Modify Your Project Description





Carefully Design Your Project to Avoid Sensitive Resources

- Vehicle access and staging
- Buffer zones
- Equipment turn-arounds
- Spray zones
- Future soil preparation (tilling, fertilizing)
- Planting plans, restoration activities
- Irrigation and drainage systems



Weave Commonly Accepted Mitigation Practices Into Your Project Description

- Near-water work during low-flow periods
- Work near Elderberry after VELB have emerged
- Work near raptor nests after young have fledged
- Work outside nesting period (Aug 15-Jan 15)



Make Your Project “Mitigation” for a Larger Project

- **ARP Invasive Plant Management Project is mitigation for the American River Bike Path Project**



Apply for Permits and Agreements in a Timely Fashion

- For big projects, apply for permits concurrent with NEPA/CEQA document (allow 6-12 months for processing)
- For small projects, allow 3-6 months for processing



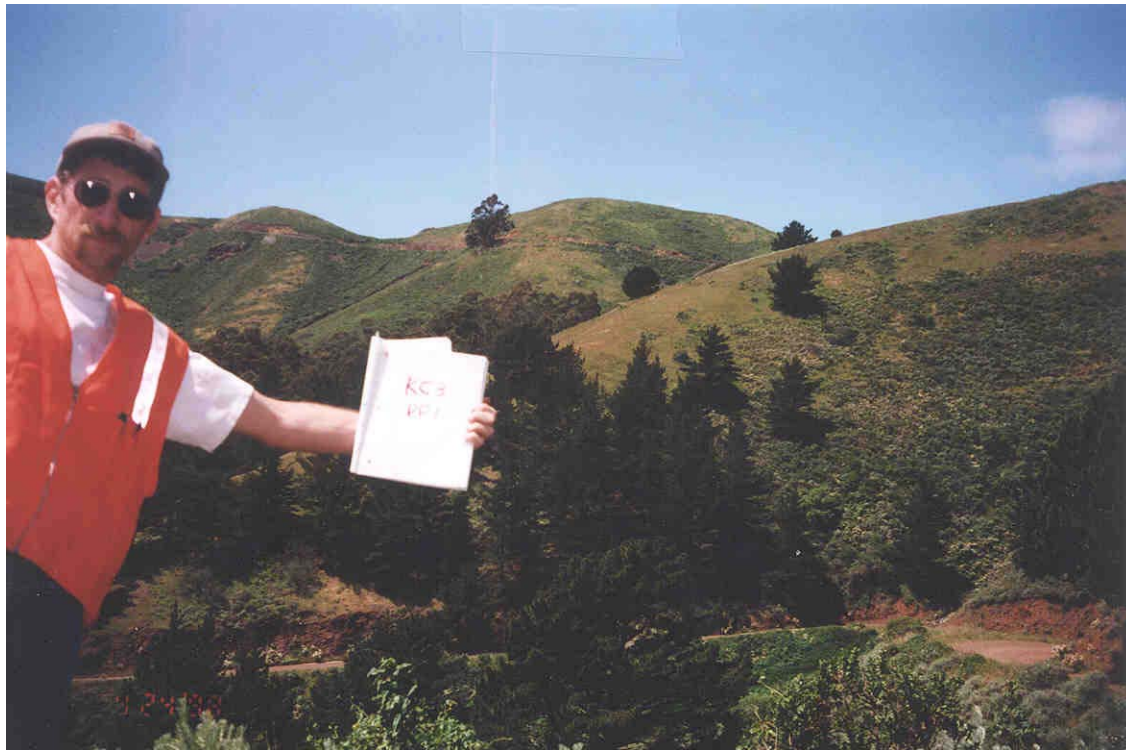
Plan for the Future

- **What comes after initial weed removal?**
- **Building a stewardship program**

More Tips on Planning a Weed Eradication Project



Thoroughly Document Baseline Site Conditions



Sequence Work in Sensitive Areas



Share the Responsibility



Mark Sensitive Resources in the Field



Provide for Onsite Inspection



Conduct Annual Site Monitoring, Progress Reporting



Thank You







