

## Cal-IPC Symposium 2003

### Session 3: Working Groups I

#### 2) Mapping: Setting priorities and communicating

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The group discussion focused on the need for mapping, mapping techniques, and some of the problems encountered in existing programs.

**Mapping protocols** – Although there is no single method considered “correct,” there are agreed upon conventions. These mapping protocols can be followed to initiate new or streamline existing programs, map native and invasive species, and improve program efficiency. The California Weed Mapping Steering Committee prepared the California Weed Mapping Handbook (*available from CDFA*) to assist WMAs in their mapping efforts. The Handbook uses globally accepted standard elements (NAWMA fields on page 4-4 of the Handbook).

**Mapping for Strategic Planning** – An initial inventory is an important component of weed management, and spatial distribution of species is necessary to manage at the regional level, and to prioritize and track successes of weed programs. At the regional level, a data dictionary may be required; however, one-meter accuracy is probably not necessary. Similarly, for heavy infestations, mapping at the township level is probably sufficient. Finer, more detailed mapping is required at boundaries and outlying infestations. Managers need a flexible strategy to determine when and how to use GPS. Remote sensing to acquire data is in the pilot phase for weed mapping, and is probably not suitable for important sporadic weed locations.

**Data collection forms** – Many of the problems encountered by the group concern development of forms for tracking treatments and monitoring infestations, and database integration. The forms developed and used by *Team Arundo del Norte* (Observation Form, Treatment Form, and Post-Treatment Form) may be adapted for use by other WMAs. Another problem, which may require a different approach, is dealing with sites that change over time (i.e., get larger or smaller).

A meeting in Sacramento was suggested to demonstrate some of the different databases in use (e.g., CDFA’s A-rated weed population database). An ArcView class may also be scheduled to assist WMAs with training and development of their mapping programs.

**Volunteer Mappers** – Several participants provided examples of successful mapping efforts using volunteers. Some of their strategies include:

- “Para” botanists who are trained to identify a few target species
- Training public employees who work in the field
- Instruct volunteers to mark locations on assessor’s parcel maps
- Perform follow-up visits to “suspect” sites to ensure quality control

The group agreed that mapping where weeds are not found is also necessary for an effective mapping program. It was also noted that there is a need to acquire “full flora” mapping data, not just invasive species data.