**March ACCG Planning Work Group Summary Notes and Action Items**

**Quick recap**

The team discussed the need for alternative treatments to herbicides, the use of broadcasting herbicides, and the importance of fuel break maintenance. The team also planned for future discussions, including the use of herbicides as a maintenance tool, and agreed to seek clarification on various issues. Lastly, they agreed that feedback from the current discussion should be conveyed to the project team and planned for future meetings to continue the conversation.

**Action Items/Next steps**

• Megan will reserve the conference room at the Amador County Building in Jackson for the April PWG meeting.

• Megan will update the Forest Plan Amendment Ad Hoc group about their decision to use herbicides for fuel break maintenance.

• Megan will acquire data on total road mileage for different herbicide use levels under the infrastructure section of the table and bring back to the project team the need to discuss the total acreage of the field break network.

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• FPP Phase 2 project team will provide data on total acreage for the fuel break network and the other items in the table.

• Megan will follow up with Matt to clarify the language in Section 2 of the working document regarding the use of broadcast applications and to discuss the possibility of broadening the language.

• UMRWA will discuss the use of herbicides as a tool for the FPP Phase 2 project with Tribes during their informal outreach.

• Work group confirmed that they will use time during the May General Meeting to discuss the use of herbicides and the potential for alternatives.

**Summary**

Exploring Chemical Methods for Invasive Species Control

Megan led discussion on new chemical methods for controlling invasive species, including the use of a backpack sprayer for targeted herbicide application. The team discussed the need for retreatment and revegetation in treated sites and discussed cost-effective and less intrusive alternatives. They also reviewed the use of chemicals for managing vegetation, focusing on the potential impact on water quality. The team concluded with plans for future discussions, including the use of herbicides as a maintenance tool and the logistics for the next meeting.

**Streamlining Application Methods and Herbicides**

The work group also discussed the use of herbicides in various projects, with a tiered approach suggested, listing them as a third-tier application, with mechanical and hand tools, and prescribed fire as the first and second tiers. Concerns about the potential health effects of herbicides and litigation limitations were also discussed. Furthermore, the team discussed the implementation of a 'middle ground' approach for managing non-native plants in the FPP Phase 2 project area, focusing on the use of herbicides, the width of the fuel break, and the potential for overspray. The team also discussed herbicide treatment applications and their potential impact, with a particular emphasis on the use of chemical spraying and the need for data on total road mileage.

**Issues in Habitat Project**

Herbicide use in sensitive habitats and riparian corridors was discussed. They agreed on the need to find alternatives to herbicides and to incorporate details about buffer protections and monitoring. The team also decided to clarify the extent of the fuel break network in the next meeting, and to provide more detailed descriptions and monitoring components for herbicide treatments. The aim was to handle objections proactively.

The group decided to continue investigating a more constrained approach to herbicides to minimize their use.

**Fuel Break Maintenance and Herbicides**

They also emphasized the importance of fuel break maintenance, coordination with other groups, and the role of herbicides in controlling brush species. The discussion concluded with the team agreeing to seek clarity from FPP Phase 2 project team on the potential need for a third tier of treatments if the first two were ineffective.