



Developing regional invasive plant strategies

Project Title: Setting Regional Strategies for Invasive Plant Management Using CalWeedMapper

Brief Summary (Abstract): This project works with dozens of partner organizations to map invasive plants statewide and to utilize an online decision-support tool, [CalWeedMapper](#), to make strategic decisions on invasive plant management. In addition to current distribution the tool shows current and projected suitable range, allowing planners to integrate climate change into their strategies. Regional partners, in coordination with Cal-IPC, use CalWeedMapper to determine priorities and design projects. This transparent approach has led to success in securing funds for on-the-ground implementation of high-priority projects.

Project Location: California. Eight of 18 regions to date in the state: Bay Area, Central Sierra, Northwest, North Central, Central Coast, South Central Coast, North Sierra, and South Coast

Partners: Usually coordinated through Weed Management Areas (WMA), including land managers from USFS, County Agriculture, DFW, California State Parks, NPS, USFWS, RCDs, local preserves, County parks, private landowners and public utilities.

Background: Invasive plant management, especially early eradication, is a critical component of wildland stewardship. Managing invasives can be a key step toward strengthening ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change. Cal-IPC's CalWeedMapper

(<http://calweedmapper.calflora.org>), a new

online decision-support tool, is designed to help land managers set effective invasive plant management strategies.

CalWeedMapper's statewide maps of invasive plant distribution, spread, management and suitability provide a basis for establishing regional management strategies that incorporate climate change. The tool suggests target species for surveillance, eradication, and containment. Given the number of invasive plant species, the range of site-specific landscape complexities, and the uncertainties of climate change, determining invasive plant management priorities in a particular area can be overwhelming. CalWeedMapper integrates multiple factors—current status, future trends, and conservation targets—into a clear analytic framework to help land managers set priorities and mobilize on-the-ground management action.





This project aims to take a major step toward structuring regional invasive plant management strategies across California. After a decade of experience with projects undertaken by the state's network of Weed Management Areas (WMAs), it is clear that regional coordination is essential.

Project Goals: Focus on early detection and rapid response to invasive plants. Devise regionally strategic projects that are shovel ready. Train land managers on new threats to a region.

Strategy Goals Implemented: Goal 7, Strategy 7.3, Action 7.3.5. **Climate Impacts Addressed:** impacts to species and habitats

Status of Project Implementation (Timeline, Milestones, Next Steps): CalWeedMapper was designed and built between 2010 and 2012. It has been deployed since 2013. Eight of 18 regions in California have initiated landscape-level planning, and two have received funding for on-the-ground implementation. Discussions are underway for expansion of the approach to other states.

Project Outcomes: Highly strategic landscape-level plans for eradicating invasive plants, a top non-climate stressor. Plans include future climatic projections in assessment of priorities. Process engages stakeholders to create a collaborative effort with the capacity to track long-term progress on meeting conservation goals. Maps provide a transparent tool for communicating the rationale behind strategic decisions.

Funding Sources: USFS State and Private Forestry, California Landscape Conservation Cooperative, California Wildlife Conservation Board, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society's Climate Adaptation Fund.

Contact Info: Doug Johnson, Executive Director, California Invasive Plant Council, Berkeley, CA. dwjohanson@cal-ipc.org, 510-843-3902



Photos/Attachments:

Photo/Figure Credits (do we have permission to print): Cal-IPC



Suggested Photo Caption: CalWeedMapper is an online decision-support tool that integrates invasive plant distribution with projected suitable range under future climate conditions.