



What *SNOO* in the Park?

Point Reyes Weed Watchers Invasive Species Early Detection Significant **N**ew **O**bservations and **O**ccurrences April 2009

Importance of Early Detection of Invasive Species

Aggressive non-native plants threaten to change the landscape of our national parks. These plants can alter entire ecosystems, reducing habitat for the unique plants and animals of the San Francisco Bay Area in the very places set aside to protect them. Often, by the time a plant is noticed as a problem it has spread throughout an area. The Weed Watchers help patrol the park for some of the newest invaders—and find them when they can still be prevented from becoming a permanent part of the landscape.

The Weed Watchers program continued to grow in April with the addition of another intern, Richard Wong; the Point Reyes Early Detection seasonal, Natalie Howe; and four new volunteers!

On April 18th, a training was held at the Bear Valley Visitors center, where three new volunteers were trained to become Weed Watchers. The training started with a presentation about the program and an introduction to the eleven Priority 1 plants. The presentation was followed by a short hike around the **Earthquake Trail**, where no Priority 1 plants were found.

The Weed Watchers joined the new Point Reyes Early Detection seasonal, Natalie Howe, on April 20th for a survey from Limantour Beach up the **Muddy Hollow Trail** through [Subwatershed 5-5](#). Two patches of **Bermuda buttercup** (*Oxalis pes-caprae*) and one small patch of **Himalayan blackberry** (*Rubus discolor*) were both mapped.

Andrea led an Earth Day brown bag session on April 22nd which was attended by a few interested employees as well as one new volunteer. The group then went out to survey the **Abbots Lagoon Trail** through [Subwatershed 6-16](#) where many great wildflowers and only one Priority 1 plant were seen. One small rosette of **tocalote** (*Centaurea melitensis*) was treated and mapped.

March Stats:
3.5 Miles Surveyed, 13 Volunteer Hours

For maps relating to this WhatSNOO, please visit:
http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/vital_signs/Invasives/whatsnoo.cfm

If anyone would like more information please contact Jen at 331-5023 or Jenn_Jordan@nps.gov, or Natalie at 464-5201 or Natalie_Howe@nps.gov.

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