



What *SNOO* in the Park?

Golden Gate Invasive Species Early Detection Significant **N**ew **O**bservations and **O**ccurrences May 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.

May was a relatively slow month for the Weed Watchers program in Golden Gate, although several important early detection species were still found and mapped.

Two new volunteers joined the program on May 12th by attending a training at **Fort Cronkhite**. The volunteers were introduced to the program and the Priority 1 species. They were then led on a short survey around Fort Cronkhite, where they got experience in identifying species as well as how to map and report priority infestations.

The Weed Watchers headed south to **Sweeney Ridge** on May 19th to survey the **Sweeney Ridge Trail** from Skyline College to the Mori Point Ridge Trail through [Subwatershed 21-1](#). Luckily no new infestations of Priority 1 species were found; however, six new infestations of List 2 plants were found. One patch of **tocalote**, (*Centaurea melitensis*) one patch of **teasel** (*Dipsacus fullonum*), one patch of **English ivy** (*Hedera helix*), one patch of **red brome** (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*), and two patches of **ox-eye daisy** (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) were all mapped.

On May 27th, the Weed Watchers surveyed along the **Hillside Trail** in **Muir Woods**, then continued west along the **Ben Johnson Trail**, then back south along the **Deer Park Fire Road**. This area was surveyed last year, and no new infestations were found this year.

During that last week of May, several high-priority infestations were found while out reading Plant Community Change plots in the Marin Headlands. In **Tennessee Valley**, small patches of **thoroughwort** (*Ageratina adenophora*) were found, mapped and treated in both [Subwatersheds 11-2 and 11-4](#). Between the **Alta Fire Road** and the **Bobcat Trail** two isolated patches of **Scotch broom** (*Cytisus scoparius*) were mapped in [Subwatershed 8-6](#), as well as one single **English holly** (*Ilex aquifolium*), which was in very close proximity to one patch of **Scotch broom**.

March Stats:

6.8 Miles Surveyed, 21 Volunteer Hours

If anyone would like more information please contact Jen at 331-5023 or Jenn_Jordan@nps.gov.

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