



What *SNOO* in the Park?

Golden Gate Invasive Species Early Detection Significant **N**ew **O**bservations and **O**ccurrences July 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 started off July by surveying the **Laguna Trail** near Muir Beach in **Subwatershed 12-9**. One small patch of **pennyroyal** was mapped and removed. One patch each of **Himalayan blackberry** (*Rubus discolor*) and **cape ivy** (*Delairea odorata*) were also mapped.

The trails around **Hawk Hill** were surveyed through **Subwatersheds 1-2 and 2-1** on July 9th. Three patches of **tocalote** (*Centaurea melitensis*), two patches of **Himalayan blackberry**, three patches of **Australian teatree** (*Leptospermum laevigatum*), and one patch of **English ivy** (*Hedera helix*) were all mapped.

Also on July 9th, the Weed Watchers did a survey of the one-way portion of **Conzelman Road** via car. Luckily no unmapped Priority List 1 or 2 species were found.

The Weed Watchers headed north of Stinson Beach to survey an old fire road in **Subwatershed 16-6**, but found that it was too overgrown to hike very far on the trail. One patch of **cape ivy** was mapped, as well as another patch of **cape ivy** and one patch of **periwinkle** (*Vinca major*) which were along Highway 1.

On July 16th several Weed Watchers surveyed **Subwatershed 8-3** along the **Hawk Camp, Bobcat, and Miwok Trails**. Lots of **Portuguese broom** (*Cytisus striatus*) was found, but this had been mapped previously. One patch of **capeweed** (*Arctotheca calendula*), one patch of **licorice plant** (*Helichrysum petiolare*), and one patch of **blackwood acacia** (*Acacia melanoxylon*) were all mapped. A small patch of **ox-eye**

daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) was mapped and treated. A patch of **gorse** (*Ulex europaea*) that had been mapped previously was treated. Two small patches of **capeweed** were also mapped and treated in **Subwatersheds 8-2 and 8-6**.

The Weed Watcher interns surveyed the entire **Bunker Hill Road** from the tunnel to Fort Cronkhite, which included many subwatersheds. In **Subwatershed 7-12**, they mapped one patch of **pennyroyal** (*Mentha pulegium*), two patches of **sweetbriar rose** (*Rosa eglantheria*), one patch of **thoroughwort** (*Ageratina adenophora*), one patch of **English ivy**, and one patch of **common teasel**. In **Subwatershed 7-14**, two patches of **sweetbriar rose** and one patch each of **pennyroyal** and **blackwood acacia** were mapped. Two patches of **English ivy** and one patch of **cape ivy** were mapped in **Subwatershed 7-4**. One patch of **sweetbriar rose** was mapped in **Subwatershed 7-3**. Two patches of **pennyroyal** and a patch of **Bermudagrass** (*Cynodon dactylon*) were mapped in **Subwatershed 7-2**.

Subwatersheds 7-7 and 7-6 were visited on multiple days both during the Bunker Hill Road survey and on a survey of the **Coastal Trail** starting at the Marin Headlands Visitors center and hiking east. In **Subwatershed 7-7** one patch of **Himalayan blackberry**, one patch of **ox-eye daisy**, one patch of **Bermudagrass**, two patches of **common teasel** (*Dipsacus fullonum*), three patches of **pennyroyal**, and four patches of **sweetbriar rose** were mapped. In **Subwatershed 7-6** two patches of **common teasel** along with one patch of each of the following were mapped: **English ivy**, **blackwood acacia**, **tocalote**, **periwinkle**, and **Himalayan blackberry**.

Bunker and McCullough Roads and the **Coastal Trail** in **Subwatershed 7-13** were also surveyed on multiple days. Along the Coastal Trail, one patch of **tocalote**, one patch of **capeweed**, and two patches of **ox-eye daisy** were all mapped and treated. A small patch of **Himalayan blackberry** was just mapped. Five patches of **blackwood acacia**, three patches of **Himalayan blackberry**, **thoroughwort**, and **English ivy**, two patches of **licorice plant**, one patch of **capeweed**, and one patch of **narrowleaf firethorn** (*Pyracantha angustifolia*) were mapped along the roads.

The trails of **Subwatershed 5-2** were surveyed on July 23rd, but only one patch of **narrowleaf firethorn** and one patch of **cape ivy** were newly mapped. The Weed Watchers treated one small patch of **thoroughwort** that had been mapped previously. Another patch of previously mapped **thoroughwort** was spotted, but was too large for the Weed Watchers to remove.

Three new Weed Watchers were trained on July 25th and then led on a survey around **Rodeo Lagoon**. One new patch of **Himalayan blackberry** was mapped.

To finish the month off, the Weed Watchers surveyed social trails around **Point Bonita** and then hiked the trail out to the lighthouse. Several List 1 patches had been previously mapped, but the only new occurrences were a patch of **blackwood acacia** and a patch of **cape ivy** in **Subwatershed 6-1**.

July Stats:

25.5 Miles Surveyed, 168 Volunteer Hours

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

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