

Invasive Plant Breakout Session CNPS Chapter Council 12/06/2008

Attendees: Bertha McKinley, Laura Baker, East Bay; Wilma Follette, Carolyn Longstreth, Marin; Brain LeNeve, Monterey Bay; Jake Ruygt, Napa; Celia Kucher, Orange County; Katie Barrows, Riverside/San Bernardino; Alison Shilling, Sacramento Valley; Orchid Black, San Gabriel Mountains; Charlie Blair, Lauren Brown, San Luis Obispo; Don Mayall, Santa Clara Valley; Adrian Stroganoff, Ludmilla Stroganoff, Yerba Buena; Elizabeth Brusati, Cal-IPC
17 Attendees representing 11 chapters
Chair: Bob Case, East Bay

Participants were given a list of activity categories and asked for input on the role CNPS chapters could play in battling the threat of invasive plants.

Categories were:

Leadership and Coordination, Prevention, Early Detection and Rapid Response, Control and Management, Restoration, Research, Information management, Education and public awareness

Bob noted that the passage of the Herbicide Use Policy and the Invasive Plant Policy were important steps toward CNPS playing a leadership role to fight invasive plants.

There was a mixed response to a question by Bob about whether chapters had a practice of sanitation after and before field trips to make sure that weeds were not spread.

Participants made responses across the board, not always in these categories. Comments are organized below in terms of what chapters were doing and the problems they reported.

Activities: At least 10 of 11 chapters indicated they were involved in the local WMA. Five chapters had participated in writing grant proposals for WMA funding. San Luis Obispo reported working with the Southern California Vector Control Invasive Task Force. East Bay indicated they played an advocacy and education role for better ecosystem protection with their open space agency. Riverside indicated they were trying to educate on the invasive consequences of disturbances in the WUI. Several chapters indicated participating in restoration work parties. Chapter also reported distributing the "Don't Plant a Pest Brochure to garden clubs and nurseries and making presentations on invasives to other groups. Monterey indicated that they used Wildflower Shows as a means of educating the public about weeds, collecting and marking the invasives in the show with special red tags. Riverside indicated they reported any invasive weeds sighted on field trips to the WMA. Yerba Buena reported dropping off leaflets on pampas grass door to door in an affected coastal area. These are all good ideas and could be adopted/ incorporated by many chapters.

Problems: Among the concerns were lack of invasive plans or coordination among public agencies, how to find out about and interpret weed ratings of CDFA and Cal-IPC Perhaps

most critical was the observation that state CNPS did not really have an invasives program

Bob Case concluded by observing that chapters have the resources to do early detection. They have the eyes and the knowledge. Bob noted that the Ag Commissioners have the power to do rapid response through law and county ordinance.

Some important contributions and suggestions include, East Bay said that they could include a weed of the month/quarter article in the Bay Leaf newsletter.