PUBLIC-PRIVATE COOPERATION RESULTS IN IMPROVED RESTORATION OF REED CANARYGRASS (PHALARIS ARUNDINACEA) INFESTED AREAS (5B) Jonathan Humphrey¹, Matt Bahm², and Athena Demetry¹ ¹Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks ²Biology Department, Gonzaga University

Montane meadows are among the most rare and biologically diverse vegetation types in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI). Reed canarygrass is a major threat to native wet meadow and riparian plant communities throughout developed areas within the Grant Grove area of SEKI. Many of these meadows are located with Wilsonia, a private in-holding in SEKI, and upstream of NPS properties. Effective eradication of reed canarygrass on NPS properties required control of populations on private property. Prior to project initiation, residents of Wilsonia were contacted to determine interest in allowing control and restoration efforts on private property by NPS personnel. Many residents signed cooperative agreements to allow work to be conducted on private holdings. Eradication measures were conducted in FY 09 - FY 11, and have resulted in successful control of reed canarygrass. The focus of work in FY11 was to plant native species in areas where reed canarygrass has been successfully controlled and restore functioning wet meadow ecosystems. Residents have taken a strong interest in the project and several have volunteered time with NPS crews. The success of the project could not have been achieved without participation from Wilsonia residents, and shows how important cooperation between public and private entities is when attempting to restore functioning ecosystems.

Key words: invasive, reed canary grass, Phalaris arundinacea