Progress Report

CalWeedMapper Project

Cal-IPC

Proposal May 2012

The main accomplishments to date are

(1) completing and releasing the CalWeedMapper online tool in late 2011,

(2) completing and integrating range suitability maps based on downscaled GCMs, and (3) integrating conservation GIS layers. CalWeedMapper displays multiple types of information: USGS quad-based invasive plant distribution and spread based on expert knowledge; point data for invasive plant occurrences; suitable range maps—current and future—derived from climatic data; and state biological richness data.

CalWeedMapper generates reports for a user-selected region, detailing which species may be appropriate for eradication, containment, or surveillance. Cal-IPC has begun working with local stakeholders to use CalWeedMapper to develop regional invasive plant management strategies. So far, we have begun working with a five-county group in the Central Sierra, with a three county group on the Central Coast, with the Cache Creek Watershed Forum in Yolo and Lake Counties and with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Additional funds will allow us to work with natural resource managers across the state to develop regional invasive plant management strategies using CalWeedMapper. By generating strategies for at least six regions, we will take a major step forward in putting the tool into practice. CalWeedMapper will be enhanced to track these particular regional strategies so that on-the-ground implementation progress can be monitored over time. We will create a standardized process and materials for using CalWeedMapper to generate regional invasive plant management strategies. This will help transfer the approach to other regions. We will also be able to connect multiple regions so that their priorities and efforts support each other. This project is the natural next step in using this powerful decision-making tool to help resource managers set effective regional strategies.