

PROGRESS REPORT TO CA LCC

Recipient: California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC)

Project Title: This agreement covers three active projects:

1. Developing an Accessible Tool for Prioritizing Management of Invasive Plant Populations
2. Setting Regional Strategies for Invasive Plant Management Using CalWeedMapper
3. Developing an Online Invasive Species Risk-Mapping Tool: Climate Change Adaptation through Strategic Management of a Top Ecological Stressor

FWS Agreement Number: 80250-B-J122

Date of Report: October 19, 2012

Period Covered by Report: July 1 – September 30, 2012

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Project 1 - Developing an Accessible Tool for Prioritizing Management of Invasive Plant Populations

Dec. 31, 2012: *WHIPPET Evaluation: the WHIPPET tool is evaluated and adapted for applicability at a local land manager scale to prioritize invasive plant eradication or control efforts.*

25% complete. We are developing specifications for the online tool. The project team has met to discuss how to adapt the existing desktop WHIPPET tool to an online format, options for adapting the tool, and technical considerations. We have interviewed previous WHIPPET users on their experience and recommendations. We met with the original developer, and have initiated discussions with potential web designers. San Pablo NWR will test WHIPPET this fall to determine how well it performs at a local scale.

June 30, 2013: *WHIPPET Development: the WHIPPET tool is adapted for use by local land managers or a new tool is developed.*

0% complete.

March 31, 2014: *Test WHIPPET application to US Forest Service and USFWS Refuges.*

0% complete.

June 30, 2014: *Report on WHIPPET applications.*

0% complete.

Sept. 30, 2014: *Complete WHIPPET web interface, beta-test online WHIPPET tool, complete user guide.*

0% complete.

Project 2 - Setting Regional Strategies for Invasive Plant Management Using CalWeedMapper

Dec. 31, 2012: *Design process and materials for developing regional invasive plant management strategies. Coordinate with CDFG Wildlife Action Plan process.*

30% complete. In working with pilot regions, we have developed a draft process and materials for regional planning. The process works through a stakeholder meeting to review the distribution and suitable range of species selected by CalWeedMapper to determine the top eradication and surveillance priorities for a region. These collaborative regional priorities are encapsulated in a simple strategic plan document. We then formulate a 5-year workplan that estimates funding necessary to realize eradication on the ground. For surveillance, we are working with Calflora to provide materials to help train those in the field to identify early detection targets.

The Wildlife Action Plan relies heavily on vegetation mapping to identify areas of concern. We are working with CDFG to crosswalk the habitats identified in Cal-IPC's Inventory of invasive species with whatever statewide vegetation layer CDFG resolves to use. We have started discussions with CDFG regarding how we will include invasive plant information in regional plans. Their method are still under development and the timeline for this process has been pushed back. We will continue to coordinate with CDFG.

March 31, 2013: *Complete strategic plans for 2 regions. Incorporate climate uncertainty measure into regional approach.*

50% complete. Regional strategic plans are underway for the Central Sierra (Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, and Tuolumne Counties) and the Central Coast (Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties). In the summer and fall of 2012, we held one meeting in each of these regions.

June 30, 2013: *Complete strategic plans for 2 additional regions. Complete "regional strategies" webpage in CalWeedMapper.*

0% complete.

Sept. 30, 2013: *Complete strategic plans for 2 additional regions. Hold statewide meeting or conference call for regional partners. Complete standardized process and materials.*

0% complete.

Project 3 - Developing an Online Invasive Species Risk-Mapping Tool...

Dec. 31, 2011: *Post test version of online tool for NPS ecologist advisory group to test, with statewide distribution data mapped for 100 invasive plant species and suitability mapped for 50. Convene modeling advisory group to guide improved modeling approach.*

100% complete. Maps available at <http://calweedmapper.calflora.org>. See previous progress reports for details.

Mar. 31, 2012: *Complete adding the first conservation layers to the tool with support from Cal DFG.*

100% complete. The Statewide Biological Richness Overview layer of ACE II (CDFG Areas of Conservation Emphasis) was added to CalWeedMapper. Caltrans' Essential Habitat Connectivity layer was also added.

Jun. 30, 2012: *Increase the number of suitability maps to cover 100 invasive plant species, and add data addressing the level of uncertainty.*

100% complete. We developed models for 140 species. We posted maps for the 79 species for which we had high confidence of the results based on available data and expert review. CalWeedMapper now displays three maps with modeling results: 2010, 2050 and 2010-2050 change.

December 31, 2012: *Complete online tool and promote it to the state's community of natural resource managers. Complete invasive plant management recommendations using the tool for a set of National Park units in the CA LCC region.*

50% complete. CalWeedMapper is complete and we have promoted it to resource managers through webinars, live demonstrations, email announcements, conference presentations and newsletter articles. Ecologists from seven National Parks and the regional office are currently participating in discussions to develop recommendations.