

Community Iceplant Removal at the Ballona Wetlands

Organization: The Bay Foundation

Project Period: May 2018 – June 2020

Amount: \$44,076

Location: Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, Los Angeles County

Project Description: The Bay Foundation (TBF), together with California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Friends of Ballona Wetlands proposes to broaden community involvement and stewardship at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve by manually removing 1.5 acres of invasive iceplant from degraded wetland habitat. The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve is located on the Los Angeles County Coast and has suffered land degradation over the past century. Much of the remaining wetland habitat suffers from invasive and non-native species encroachment. Over 30 acres of iceplant cover the site and approximately 10 acres of iceplant are concentrated south of Culver Boulevard. This project will focus removal efforts in targeted areas. This project will augment the 0.75 acres of invasive iceplant that was removed in 2016. Removing iceplant and other non-native vegetation within the Reserve will provide space and nutrients for native vegetation to grow. This will provide valuable habitat for wildlife and increase the health and condition of wetland habitat at the Reserve.

Progress: Since October 2018, 97 volunteers contributed 278.5 hours and removed 8,455 pounds of invasive iceplant and other species from the restoration project area. Revegetation, in the form of erosion control mat installation and native seeding, occurred within 0.20 acres of the reported 0.41 acres of restoration progress area to date. Ongoing scientific monitoring has occurred in accordance with the Monitoring and Implementation Plan and associated permits.



Installation of erosion control mats on hillside in restoration area

Summary of event activities, volunteers, and removed invasive species weights in 2019

| Event Date | Event Type | # Volunteers | # Volunteer Hours | Targeted Species | Weight Removed (lbs) |
|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--|----------------------|
| 3/13/2019 | Restoration | 9 | 27 | <i>Melilotus indicus</i> , <i>Bromus diandrus</i> | 135 |
| 4/26/2019 | Site Check/ Restoration | 1 | 3 | <i>Melilotus indicus</i> , <i>Bromus diandrus</i> , <i>Raphanus sativus</i> | 300 |
| 6/11/2019 | Site Check/ Restoration | 3 | 9 | <i>Ricinus communis</i> , <i>Raphanus sativus</i> , <i>Euphorbia terracina</i> | 30 |
| 6/12/2019 | Monitoring/ Restoration | 3 | 9 | <i>Ricinus communis</i> , <i>Euphorbia terracina</i> | 15 |
| 6/21/2019 | Monitoring/ Restoration | 10 | 30 | <i>Ricinus communis</i> , <i>Raphanus sativus</i> | 330 |
| 7/24/2019 | Monitoring/ Restoration | 5 | 7.5 | <i>Ricinus communis</i> , <i>Raphanus sativus</i> , <i>Euphorbia terracina</i> | 45 |
| 9/14/2019 | Community Restoration | 5 | 10 | <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> , <i>Melilotus indicus</i> , <i>Brassica spp.</i> , <i>Avena fatua</i> , <i>Bromus diandrus</i> , <i>Raphanus sativus</i> , <i>Europhorbia sativus</i> | 700 |
| 10/9/2019 | Community Restoration | 5 | 10 | <i>Melilotus indicus</i> , <i>Brassica spp.</i> , <i>Avena fatua</i> , <i>Bromus diandrus</i> , <i>Raphanus sativus</i> | 120 |
| 10/23/2019 | Community Restoration | 19 | 38 | <i>Melilotus indicus</i> , <i>Brassica spp.</i> , <i>Avena fatua</i> , <i>Bromus diandrus</i> , <i>Raphanus sativus</i> , <i>Europhorbia sativus</i> | 300 |
| Totals | | 60 | 143.5 | | 1,975 |