

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: In the first 5 months of this project, TBF recruited 74 volunteers that contributed 237 hours and removed 15,055 lbs of invasive iceplant and other species. This covered 0.19 acres of the restoration project area. TBF hosted 4 individual restoration events and 2 official National Estuaries Week events at the restoration site. Ongoing scientific monitoring continues to occur in accordance with their Monitoring and Implementation Plan and associated permits. TBF has highlighted their restoration events at the Ballona Wetlands in newsletters, online social media, and their website.

Summary of restoration event activities, volunteers, and removed invasive species weights.

Event Date	Event Type	# Volunteers	# Volunteer Hours	Targeted Species	Weight Removed (lbs)
8/1/2018	Restoration	8	32	<i>Euphorbia terracina</i>	50
8/9/2018	Restoration	7	28	<i>Euphorbia terracina</i> , <i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	25
8/29/2018	Restoration	3	9	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	2,240
9/19/2018	Restoration	15	45	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	3,850
9/22/2018	Restoration	36	108	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	8,400
9/25/2018	Site Cleanup	N/A	N/A	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	N/A
9/27/2018	Restoration	1	3	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	490
9/28/2018	Site Cleanup	4	12	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	N/A
Totals		74	237		15,055



Photos of volunteers during restoration events at the Ballona Wetlands in September 2018.