

Community Iceplant Removal at the Ballona Wetlands

Organization: The Bay Foundation

Project Period: April 2018 – February 2022

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, a total of 246 volunteers have contributed 665.5 hours and removed 43,730 pounds of invasive iceplant and other non-native species from 0.73 acres of the restoration project area. This project faced some setbacks due to COVID-19 restrictions, but 2 public events occurred after July 2021 and 5,050 pounds of iceplant and other species were removed, contributing to 0.09 acres of the project area. Revegetation using native seeding and planting container stock plants has occurred on approximately one third of the restoration area. This project is on target to meet most of their goals and has exceeded their goal for number of volunteers and volunteer hours. They continue to do ongoing scientific monitoring in accordance with their Monitoring & Implementation plan.

[Year 5 Annual Report for the entire project site](#) is available online.

Their [Monitoring & Implementation Plan](#) is also available online.



Photo Point (station 4a) before restoration on September 20, 2019, and post-restoration on February 9, 2021. Iceplant monoculture was removed and native vegetation is growing back.

Summary of the 2 public event activities, volunteers, and removed invasive species weights in 2021.

Event Date	Event Type	# Volunteers	# Volunteer Hours	Targeted Species	Weight Removed (lbs)
08/25/2021	Maintenance Event	0 (partner participation)	0	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> , <i>Melilotus indicus</i> , <i>Avena fatua</i> , others	100
09/08/2021	Community Restoration	5	10	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> , <i>Melilotus indicus</i> , <i>Avena Fatua</i> , others	750
Totals		5	10		850