

Wetland Habitat Restoration at Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Wildlife Refuge

Organization: San Luis Obispo Land Conservancy

Project Period: September 2019 – February 2024

Amount: \$24,412.65

Location: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Wildlife Refuge, San Luis Obispo

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to restore coastal dune scrub and coastal dune wetland habitat in two crucial ponds of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge. This project will restore 4.66 acres of native coastal scrub and wetland habitat by arresting the spread of European beach grass, veldtgrass, and other invasive species and eradicating them for recovery of federal endangered and state threatened La Graciosa thistle and federal threatened and state species of special concern California red-legged frog. Invasive plant species are currently considered the biggest threat to the specialized habitats within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex.

Project Progress: La Graciosa thistle plants were monitored at two locations within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge; three individuals at 3 Pond West, and 321 individuals at Myrtle Pond. 3 Pond West continues to be a difficult place to keep plants alive while plants at Myrtle Pond are surviving and a second generation is germinating (over 300 detected). Invasive species surrounding the planting sites were managed by the Land Conservancy restoration team using herbicide and hand removal, each when deemed appropriate. A large patch of bulrush was removed from Myrtle Pond in 2022 to create additional open water and freshwater shore habitat which is continually maintained. The project is on track to meet all objectives by the end of the granting period (Feb 2024).



Myrtle Pond on May 31, 2023.



Myrtle Pond during mechanical removal of bulrush regrowth on August 23, 2023.



Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge

Hemlock Herbicide Treatment March 2023

Legend

-  Fence Line
-  Previously Planted La Graciosa thistles
-  Hemlock Herbicide Treatment (March 2023)



Created by: L. Roddick 04/2023

Herbicide treatment at 3 Pond West in March 2023.