

Invasive Weed Update 2018



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California Invasive Plant Council

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Review of Weed Impacts and Forests

- Weeds are the initial ignition in many wildfires.
- Understory weeds increase fire interval and remove shrubs and trees.
- Catastrophic fires and drought create open disturbances that gives weeds an initial foothold.
- Weeds degrade all of the multiple uses of forest ecosystems.
- Weeds crowd out native biodiversity.

Increase in fire interval and risk



Invasive cheatgrass has been burning repeatedly and is eliminating, sagebrush, juniper and pinyon pine on the east side of the Sierra Nevada.

Toiyabe National Forest
(Slinkard Valley to Monitor
Pass)

Post-fire Weed Invasion



After catastrophic fires, invasive weeds that were uncommon can explode in abundance. Sometimes they recede as succession progresses, but in other instances they stay and dominate.

There are many instances of weeds introduced by traveling fire crews or post-burn erosion prevention mulching or seeding.

Drought Creates Weed Opportunities



As large swaths of mid-elevation pines are undergoing die-offs invasive plants are moving into the shade free openings.

USFS State and Private Forestry grant to impacted counties to address this problem.

Sudden Oak Death and Phytophthora also create large forest openings.

Weeds degrade wildlife habitat and Biodiversity.



Scotch and French Brooms are examples of mono-culture forming exotic understories that are bad for wildlife and enhance flammability

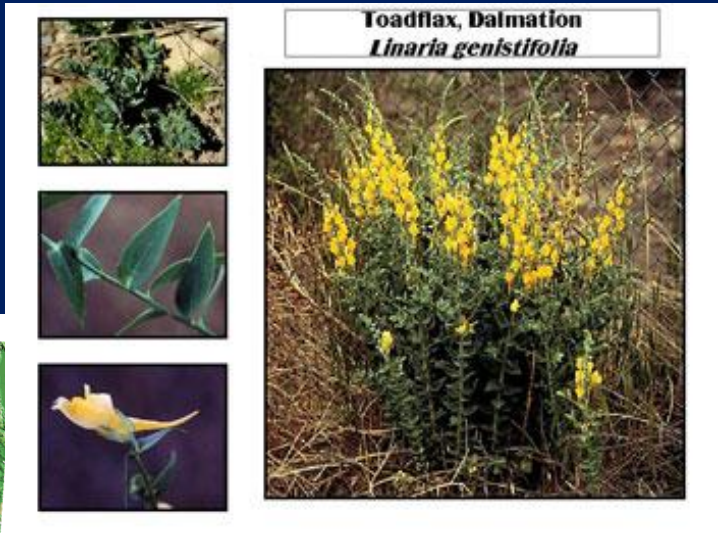
“New Invaders” - Invasive Weeds Enter California at a High Rate of Spread



Placer Co. Ag Dept found and eradicated 400 noxious weeds in the right-of-way along Hwy 80 in 2018



“New Invaders” - Many “new invaders” have been in California at low numbers under suppression for years – these are A-rated weeds.



Dalmatian toadflax



Scotch Thistle

California Department of Food and Agriculture has the Mandate and the Authority to Control Weeds

- Food and Ag Code 403 - The department (*CDFA*) **shall** prevent the introduction and spread of injurious insect or animal pests, plant diseases, and noxious weeds.
- Food and Ag Code 7271(a) - The Legislature designates the Department of Food and Agriculture as the **lead** department in noxious weed management

Origin of Noxious Weeds

Noxious and invasive weeds are introductions into western North America originating from other parts of the world.

- Many noxious weeds were unintentionally introduced and spread in commercial seed.
- Other weeds were intentionally brought to California for horticulture, but have escaped and now cause economic and environmental harm.

THE REBELS BRAND TALL FESCUE MIXTURE		
MAT. 100519431	NET WT. 20 LB.	
PURE SEED	VARIETY/KIND	GERMINATION O
23.35%	Rebel Advance Tall Fescue	85%
14.60%	Rebel Xtreme Tall Fescue	85%
9.75%	Rebel IV Tall Fescue	85%
1.50%	OTHER CROP SEED	
0.75%	INERT MATTER	
50.00%	COATING MATERIAL	
0.05%	WEED SEED	
NOXIOUS WEED: 87 ROUGH BLUEGRASS		PER LB.(6.5 PER
LOT: M16-15-RTF045		
TEST DATE: 8/2015		
In AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, ID, IL, IN, MD, MN, NC, ND		





Historic Statewide Eradication Success (100 years)

- 13 established noxious weed species were eliminated completely from California.
- 9 additional species were reduced to less than 5% of their statewide distribution
- 1000's of individual infestations were detected and permanently eradicated.

County and State Weed Program Decline

The state and county weed eradication programs suffered a series of funding cutbacks and other setbacks accelerating from the 70's onward.

Some key events:

- 1978 Prop 13 tax rollback hit county weed programs drastically.
- 1980 Medfly program redirected CDFA county weed biologists during eradication season.
- 1990 recession led to reduction of CDFA weed biologists by 1/3.
- 2001 recession led to reduction of CDFA weed biologists by 1/2.
- 2004 cuts led to reduction of CDFA weed biologists by 1/2.
- **2011 Great Recession state revenue deficit led to final elimination of all 3 major weed programs.**

Why the weed program cuts? – Weeds move slow; not eradicable in top Ag commodities; the Weed Program didn't updated priorities; didn't document success well.

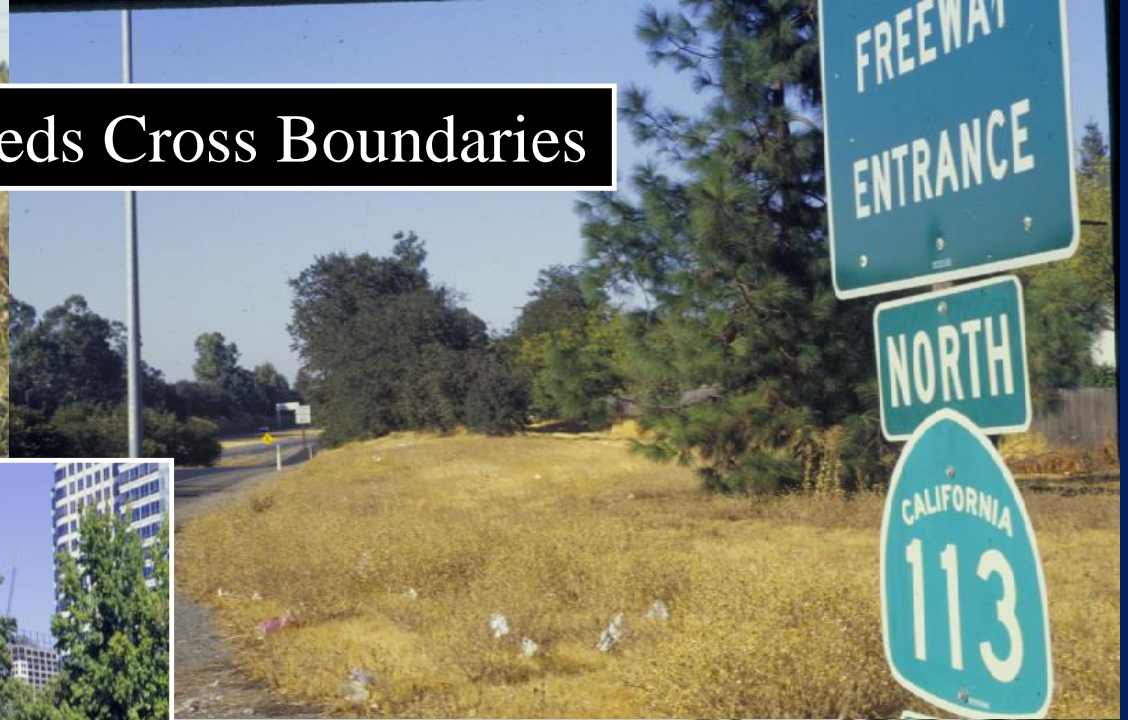
WEED MANAGEMENT AREAS

Food & Ag code 7272 (b) A “Weed Management Area” is a local organization that brings together all interested landowners, land managers (private, city, county, state, and federal), special districts, and the public in a county or other geographical area for the purpose of coordinating and combining their action and expertise to deal with their common weed control problems.



- Program created (AB 1168) in 1998.
- Program expanded and budget increased to \$5.4 million / 4 yrs through SB1740.
- Program reauthorized through annual budget 2007-2010.
- Program eliminated 2011 due to General Fund budget cuts.

Weeds Cross Boundaries



Weed Management Areas



1997

Weed Management Areas



1998

Weed Management Areas



**late
1999**

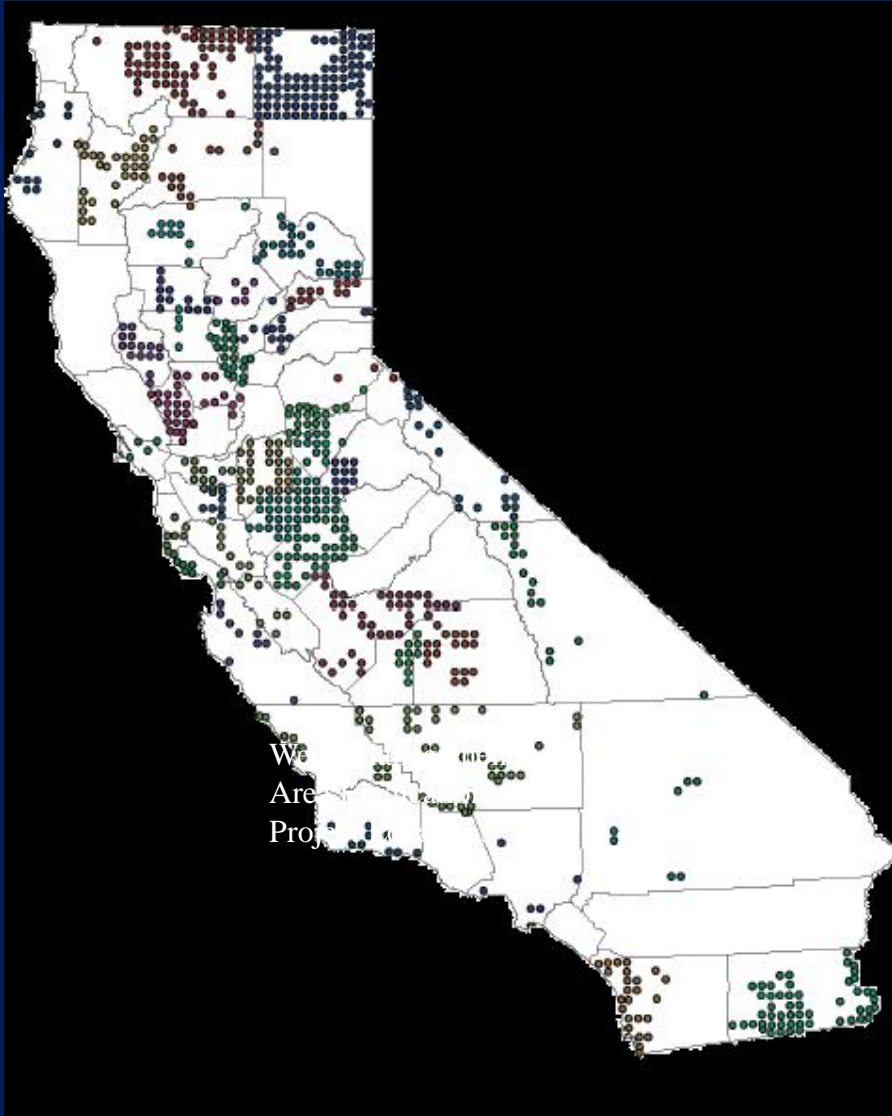
Weed Management Areas



2001

Benefits & Accomplishments

From Weed Management Area 5-year Report 2006

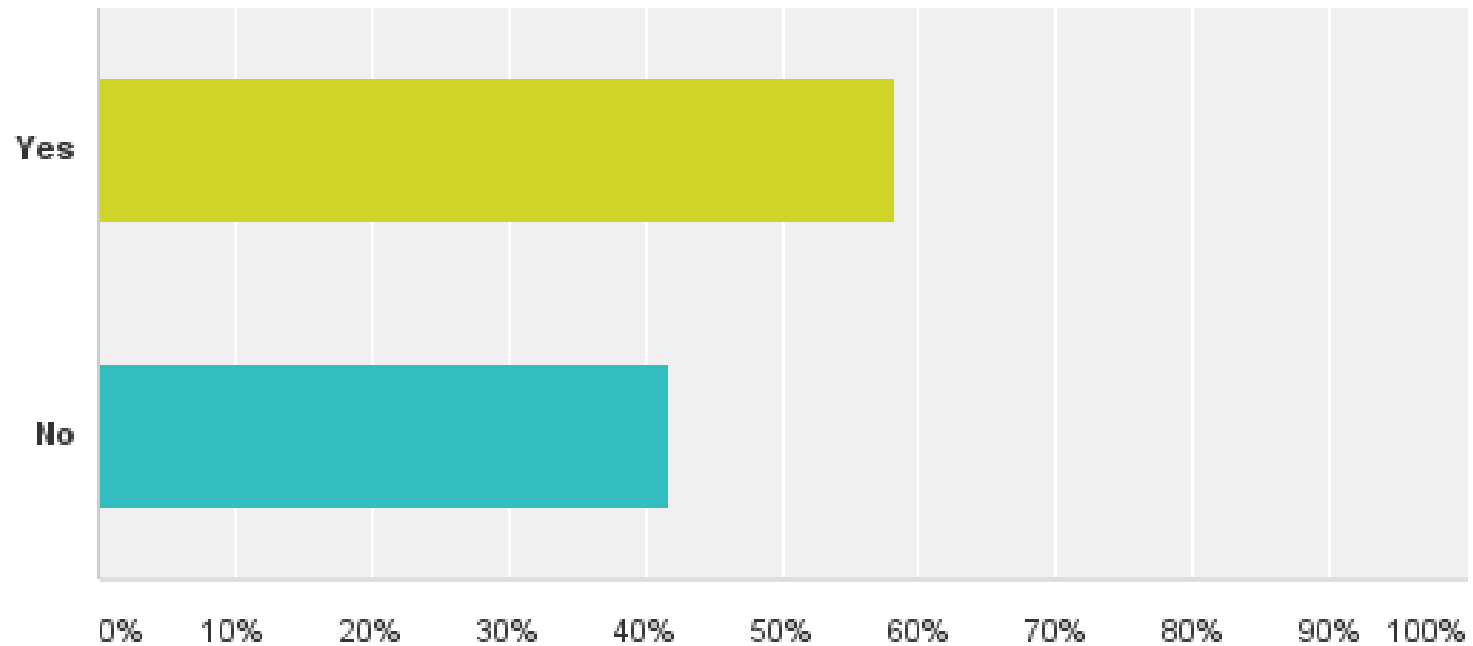


- Eradication of 2,015 populations of infestations.
- Treatment to 128,421 acres of priority infestations.
- \$5.6 million distributed to 58 counties.
- A 3-to-1 match from outside grant funding and in-kind donations.
- Outreach programs to 88,803 people.
- 6,781 regular participants at weed management area meetings

From Ag Commissioner Survey:

Q24 Is there still a Weed Management Area (WMA) meeting in your county?

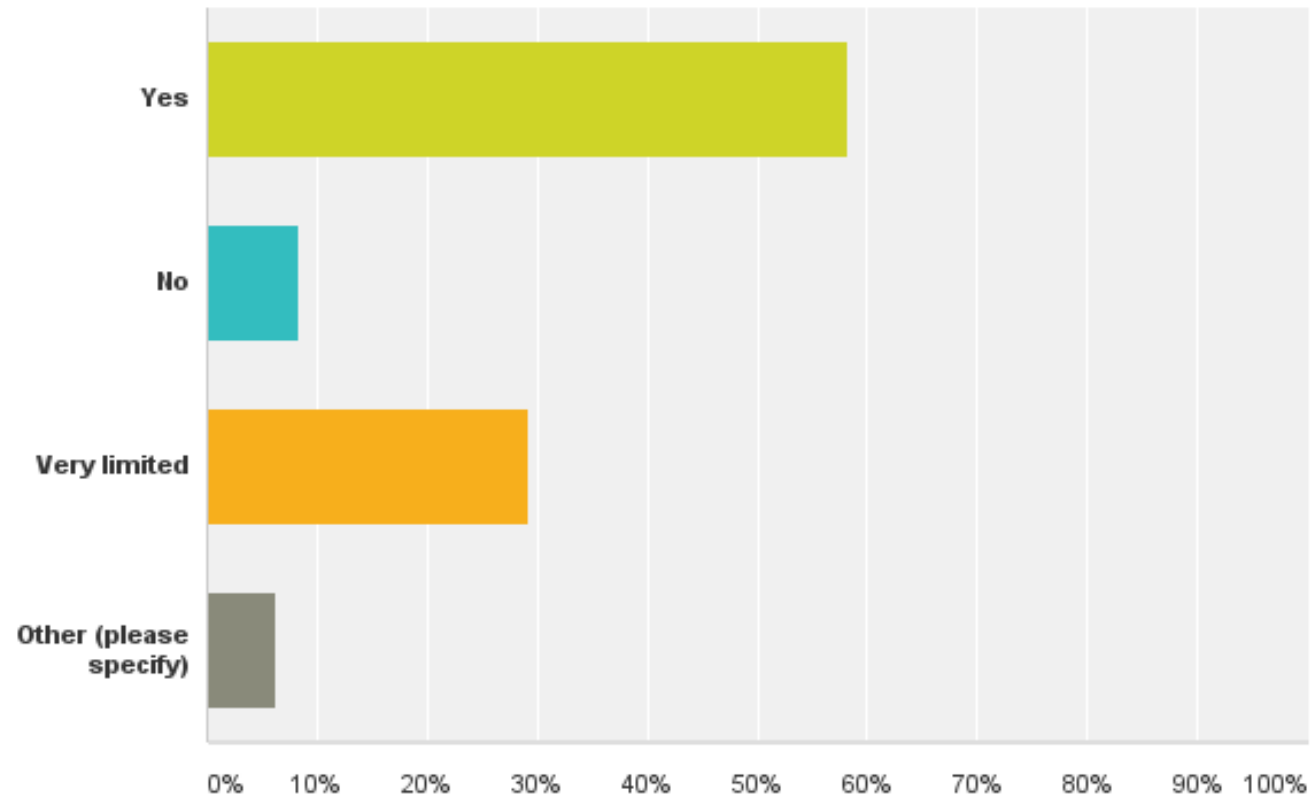
Answered: 48 Skipped: 2



From Ag Commissioner Survey:

Q7 Is there a Noxious Weed Program or weed activities in your office?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 2



SUPPORT CAL-IPC



Protecting California's environment and economy from invasive plants

Home About ▾ Plants ▾ Resources ▾ Solutions ▾ Join, Renew or Donate

Cal-IPC works to stop the spread of invasive plants across California...



Cal-IPC Project
SF Bay Sea Lavender Control



Cal-IPC Project
Desert Knapweed Containment



Cal-IPC Project
Northcoast Knotweed Eradication

SUPPORT CAL-IPC



Weed Management Areas and Regional Partnerships

County-based Weed Management Areas (WMAs) have formed in every part of the state. Follow the links below to learn more about each WMA, or see [background on the WMA program](#). Links go to the WMA's own website if it has one or to a simple profile on our website. Help us keep these profiles up to date! Notify us of any changes by emailing info@cal-ipc.org.

Regional collaboration

[Central Coast Region](#)
[Central Sierra Region](#)

[North Central Region](#)
[North Sierra Region](#)

[Northwest Region](#)
[South Central Coast Region](#)



Regions map

WMAs

[Alameda-Contra Costa WMA](#)
[Alpine & Upper Carson WMA](#)
[Amador WMA](#)
[Butte County WMA](#)
[Central Sierra Partnership Against Weeds WMA](#)
[Colusa, Glenn & Tehama Counties WMA](#)
[Del Norte WMA](#)

[Lassen County Special Weed Action Team \(SWAT\)](#)
[Los Angeles County WMA](#)
[Low Desert WMA](#)
[Marin Sonoma WMA](#)
[Mendocino WMA](#)
[Modoc WMA](#)
[Mojave WMA](#)

[San Francisco WMA](#)
[San Luis Obispo WMA](#)
[San Mateo WMA](#)
[Santa Barbara WMA](#)
[Santa Clara WMA](#)
[Santa Cruz WMA](#)
[Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey Watersheds WMA](#)



Great News!

- AB 2470 (Tim Grayson) led to:
- \$2 million appropriation for WMAs and weed control

Future

- #1 Goal of Cal-IPC Policy committee. Restore funding to Weed Management Areas and restore statewide leadership role and funding to CDFFA and funding to other state agencies & departments.

www.Cal-IPC.org