



Los Angeles County WMA Annual Report 2007

1. *Number of individuals that attended WMA meetings at least once in 2007:* **42**
2. *Number of people reached by 2007 programs:* **54,655**
3. *In-kind donations of services and resources from partners:* **\$91,452**
4. *Direct matches of money for CDFA WMA projects:* **\$274,779**
5. *Number of populations eradicated (specify by weed species):* **4** [Catalina Island - yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), Veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*), saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*), and periwinkle (*Vinca major*)]
6. *Net acres of weeds controlled (list acres per species):* **21 acres**
7. *Gross acres of weeds surveyed (plus acres per species):* **33,150 acres**

Species	Acreage	Plant Count	Area Surveyed (sq mi.)
<i>Acacia spp.</i>	--	29	154
<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>	12	--	154
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	5.5	177	154
<i>Arundo donax</i>	250	--	915
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	4	--	154
<i>Carpobrotus spp.</i>	2.25	--	154
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	27.5	--	154
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	0.2	--	154
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	71	--	915
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	0.1	--	154

<i>Cytisus striatus</i>	0.1	27	154
<i>Eucalyptus spp.</i>	--	1221	154
<i>Euphorbia dendroides</i>	0.1	--	154
<i>Ficus carica</i>	178	--	154
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	0.2	--	154
<i>Hedera helix</i>	9	--	154
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	3.75	--	154
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	15	4491	154
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	10	--	154
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	--	2289	915
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	30	2114	154
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	--	110	154
<i>Rubus discolor</i>	1.5	--	154
<i>Schinus molle</i>	--	498	154
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	1.25	--	154
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	4	714	154
<i>Tamarix spp.</i>	3.5	195	154
<i>Vinca major</i>	23	--	154
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	--	8435	915
CATALINA ISLAND SURVEYS			
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	18,000	---	N/A
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	200	---	N/A
<i>Ehrharta calycina</i>	6,200	---	N/A
<i>Vinca major</i>	8,100	---	N/A
<p><i>Other species of highest concern (acreages not available) specifically in the Santa Monica Mountains (monitoring by National Parks Service):</i></p> <p><i>Asphodelus fistulosus, Centaurea solstitialis, Conium maculatum, Delairea odorata, Euphorbia terracina, Lepidium latifolium, Myoporum laetum, Phalaris aquatic, Salsola australis</i></p>			

8. *Project Descriptions:* Below is a summary of projects that have been developed for our local Weed Management Area as well as the greater Southern California region in 2007.

Removal/Treatment Projects

Treatment initiatives and removal of various invasive weed species are ongoing in the Los Angeles County Weed Management area. *Euphorbia terracina* in the Solstice Canyon (7 miles of trails and streams) and Palos Verde Peninsula area is being mapped and treated using a combination of hand pulling and glyphosate application. Populations of spotted knapweed (*Centaurea biebersteinii*) in the San Gabriel National Forest are being reduced with the use of herbicides. Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) removal is ongoing in many different areas of the County. Ongoing cooperation with Caltrans allows for continued control of invasive species on roadside areas.

Catalina Island provides an excellent site to target eradication of invasive weeds, and its isolation from the mainland provides an effective natural barrier to future dispersal of new invaders. During the last year, three of the four target invasive weeds targeted by grant funds have been eradicated on the island. With future support and persistence, permanent eradication is obtainable.

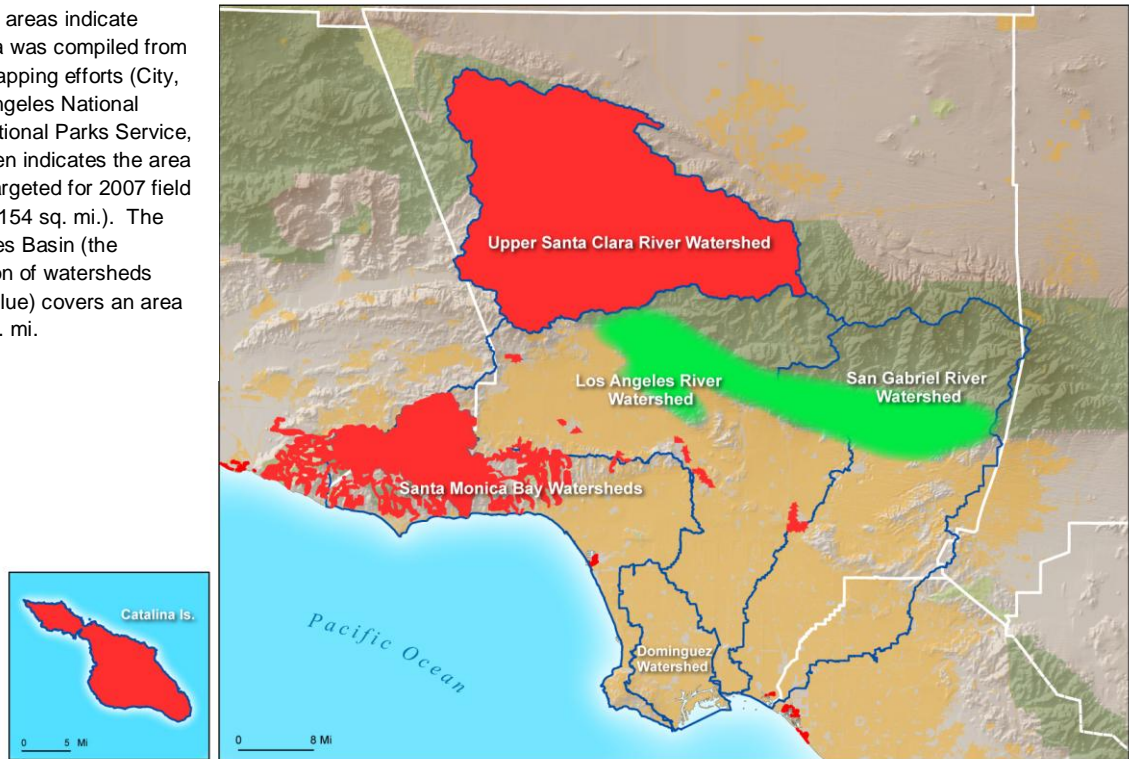
Monitoring

Mapping initiatives focused on two areas: data aggregation and field surveys. Aggregation steps include a) collecting a suite of existing invasive plant datasets from other agencies, organizations, and residents for the Los Angeles Basin and b) standardizing datasets so they can be merged into one comprehensive database. In 2007, one region was targeted for detailed field surveys (*see Fig 1*) based on data gaps present in our existing aggregated database. Field surveys would include select high-priority invasive plants in our region (*see #7 table*). The wildland-urban interface (WUI) of the San Gabriel foothills (from I-5 near Sylmar southeast to Claremont) was selected as the target case (*see Fig 2*). Approximately 70% of this area was surveyed during the year of 2007.



Fig 1. Arundo field mapping

Fig 2. Red areas indicate where data was compiled from existing mapping efforts (City, County, Angeles National Forest, National Parks Service, etc.). Green indicates the area that was targeted for 2007 field surveys (~154 sq. mi.). The Los Angeles Basin (the combination of watersheds shown in blue) covers an area of 2730 sq. mi.



Educational and Outreach Materials

- Based on the concept of the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch card, a wallet-sized invasive plant education Weed Watch card was developed for residents of Southern California. Plant lists on the card reflect those invasive plants that are most commonly found in nurseries or are still in gardens and under cultivation but no longer commercially available (i.e. Cape ivy). Plant lists were developed based on select criteria determined by a subcommittee of the Los Angeles County Weed Management Area and the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC). English and Spanish versions were produced. The initial run of 20,000 cards (all English) has been distributed to stakeholders, partners, and concerned citizens. An additional 100,000 cards (75,000 English, 25,000 Spanish) have been printed for continued distribution.
- An 18"x24" Wildland Weeds Poster was created for the Southern California region. This poster was designed to be placed in park kiosks and ranger stations as well as bulletin boards at nature centers, visitor and community centers, nurseries, public libraries, maintenance yards, etc. Thirteen invasive plant taxa were determined by a subcommittee of the LA County Weed Management Area. The project team then narrowed the plant list down to ten species for the final poster layout. Detailed color illustrations of the plants are also made publicly available for other non-profits and agencies to use in their own program materials.



- Guidelines were developed for creating and maintaining fire-safe, environmentally-friendly landscapes in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) that minimize the use of and spread of invasive plants. These guidelines were then fused into a user-friendly guidebook and calendar for 2008. The intended audience focuses on residents living within the WUI of the greater Los Angeles region. The language used in the guidebook is relatively region specific but can be applied to other parts of Southern California. Approximately 12,200 calendars were printed and sent to residents in the WUI of Los Angeles County. Four "Fire-Safe" landscaping seminars were also given around the Los Angeles region where calendars were distributed. We will be receiving additional funding to print another 25,000 calendars for the Santa Clarita and San Gabriel Valley WUI residents at the beginning of 2009. The calendar template is now being used for a Ventura County version also due out in 2009.



- In cooperation with the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Los Angeles and San Diego Chapters, WMA partners developed an online plant guide and matrix for Los Angeles County. This tool is specifically geared toward educating landscape professionals on the selection, cultivation, management, and use of non-native and invasive plants when used in landscaping projects near the wildland-urban interface (WUI). With permission from the San Diego ASLA, we adopted their invasive guide and applicable plant profiles as a template for our own. Each plant profile details a plant's invasiveness, known locations around the County, and references to other sites/publications that give further in-depth descriptions. Local land managers were interviewed to determine what species and localities are included in the Los Angeles matrix. The guide is now available for use online at: www.weedwatch.org.



- We have created four humorous and informative public service announcements about terracina spurge. These public service announcements will soon be shown throughout Malibu, Palos Verdes Peninsula, and the Santa Monica Mountains area. In addition, we have created a public information brochure highlighting the dangers of terracina spurge and appropriate treatment methods. This brochure will be mailed to over 2500 homeowners in the Santa Monica and Palos Verdes area by the end of May 2008.



Submitted on: 4/21/08
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