



Los Angeles County WMA Annual Report 2009

1. *Number of individuals that attended WMA meetings at least once in 2009:* **35**
2. *Number of people reached by 2009 programs:* **18,400¹**
3. *In-kind donations of services and resources from partners:* **Total in-kind: \$110,100** [\$3,500 mapping; \$5,200 website; \$28,000 WMA participation (quarterly meetings); \$12,400 outreach; \$61,000 control]
4. *Direct matches of money for CDFG WMA projects:* **Total match: \$11,080** [\$11,080 (Palos Verdes Peninsula work)]
5. *Number of populations eradicated (specify by weed species):* **0**
6. *Net acres of weeds controlled (list acres per species):* **37.8 total treated acres** [arundo – 21.5 acres; castor bean – 5.75 acre; fennel – 0.25 acres; onion weed – 0.50 acres; Russian thistle – 0.125 acres; spotted knapweed – 3 acres; terracina spurge – 0.2 acres; tree of heaven – 1 acre; tree spurge – 0.25 acres; tree tobacco – 0.25 acres; yellow star thistle – 5 acres]
7. *Gross acres of weeds surveyed (plus acres per species):* **231 acres total weeds surveyed**

Species	Acreage	Plant Count	Area Surveyed (sq mi.)
<i>Arundo donax</i> *	176.2	--	2730
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> *	54.8	--	2730
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i> *	--	5358	2730
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i> *	--	12144	2730

** Survey data was provided as match from a Prop 50 grant managed by the California Invasive Plant Council. The area surveyed covers all coastal watersheds within LA County that are within or adjacent to wildlands, open space, and riparian corridors. The total acreage figure is based on populations that have not yet been treated.*

¹ Figure based on WMA quarterly meeting participation, 2009 fire-safe (SAFE) calendar mailing, Cal-IPC Student Chapter outreach booth events, UCCE trainings, Mountains Restoration Trust volunteer weed pulling events, and distribution of local invasive plant outreach brochures (i.e. Don't Plant a Pest, WeedWatch wallet cards, Terrible 10 Invasive Plant Posters) through local partnerships.

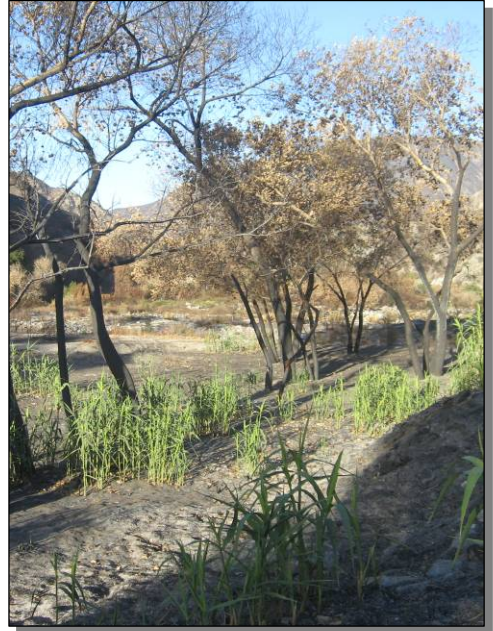
8. *Project Descriptions:* Below is a summary of projects from Los Angeles County WMA (LACWMA) participants that received State WMA funding or provided in-kind match to WMA projects in 2009. These projects are in their first year of the WMA funding cycle.

A) Control/Eradication Projects

1. ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

Lead: Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures (ACWM)

In 2009, ACWM was contracted by the National Forest Service (NFS) to treat two noxious weeds. Treatments continued to the rapidly growing *Arundo donax* (giant reed) in Big Tujunga Canyon. Four applications were made in the Big Tujunga Wash from above the Big Tujunga Ranger Station to Delta Flats. Three of these applications were completed in 2009, one in spring and two in the fall. The Station burned through the canyon in late August, clearing the area of almost all vegetation. This enabled the timely and quick treatment of the 4 acres of infestation. Most areas were treated by backpack using a low volume foliar solution of Aquamaster. In more dense areas where there risk of damaging native plants was present, the cut-stump method was chosen using 100% Aquamaster.



Spotted knapweed was the other invasive weed that was treated under direction of the NFS. The ACWM has treated a spotted knapweed site for the National Forest Service, San Dimas Experimental Forest-Tanbark Flats, for many years and this work continued in 2009. The NFS requested that we not disturb native species of plants so a survey was conducted first to locate and flag the knapweed. This was followed by a low volume backpack application mix of chlorylid (Transline) and glyphosate (Roundup Pro). These treatments were conducted twice in April and again in May 2009. The initial spot treatments control most of the knapweed in the rosette stage and the follow-up catches small seedlings that may have been missed. The goal has been to spray the knapweed between the rosette and bolt stage, and control efforts have been quite successful thus far.



2. PALOS VERDES PENINSULA -

Lead: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC)

During 2009, the PVPLC treated 35 separate *Euphorbia terracina* (terracina spurge) populations, totaling approximately 33,905 individual plants and 805 m². Although hand-pulling was utilized as a removal method where applicable, the majority of sites were treated with 2% formulation of glyphosate (Roundup). In total, we used 1,708 oz. of herbicide to treat the spurge across the Peninsula.

3. ANTELOPE VALLEY -

Lead: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Lancaster Field Office

Centaurea solstitialis (yellow star thistle) was treated at Wagas Ranch, a private property approximately 75 miles north of Los Angeles off the State Highway 14 at Avenue A. The infested areas (approximately 5 acres of the 20.3 acre site) of yellow star thistle were initially treated with Transline and Roundup twice in May 2009. The affected area at the leading edge is a seasonal wetland with critically important habitats near Armargosa Creek. Future retreatments will still be needed to prevent further spread into these critical habitats.



4. SAN GABRIEL FOOTHILLS -

Lead: Riparian Repairs

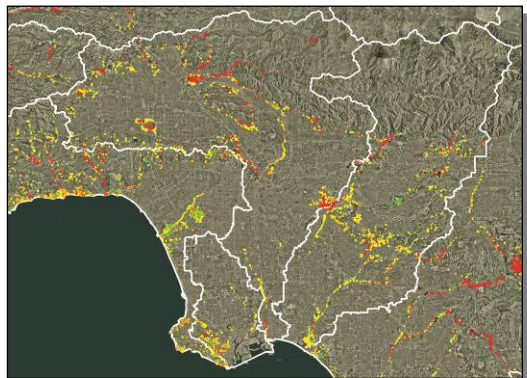
Riparian Repairs treated approx. 2/3 acre of *Arundo donax* in a gated community at the top of Devil's Canyon, and 1/3 acre of post-fire *Arundo* resprouts downstream. In addition, dispersed castor bean and remnant *Arundo* resprouts were treated along Los Angeles Department of Water & Power property in Big Tujunga Wash (just downstream from the Angeles National Forest jurisdiction).

5. SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS -

No control work was performed with WMA funding this cycle.

B) Mapping Projects

For 2009, mapping initiatives tied to WMA-funded projects were primarily in-kind match driven by mapping efforts conducted by the California Invasive Plant Council. Their baseline data inventory (funded through a Prop 50 grant) provided the LACWMA with *Arundo*, pampas grass, Mexican fan palm, and Canary Island date palm data for all coastal watersheds in Los Angeles County (results are listed in #7 above). No other localized mapping efforts were undertaken during this funding cycle.



C) Educational and Outreach Materials

Education and outreach efforts in 2009 focused on the following three areas:

1. GENERAL WEED OUTREACH

Lead: California Invasive Plant Council Student Chapter at UC Riverside

In 2009, the Cal-IPC Student Chapter reached an estimated 1,355 people at 29 volunteer events, including plant sales, community events and Weed Day at the Capital. During the events, the volunteers made contact with a variety of people from second graders at a local elementary school to families and retirees at community events and lectures. Single species invasive plant fact sheets are given to interested individuals and include information on control measures and examples of alternative plants for landscaping. Several members have also given lectures to the public about invasive weeds and weed research. Their new website (<http://calipcsc.org/>) provides another venue of outreach where all Chapter members have a section on research interests, a blog about outreach events, and viewers have access to Plant Fact Sheets for download. The chapter has grown from one branch (UC Riverside, 2007) to 4 branches (2009) and their current membership is 27.

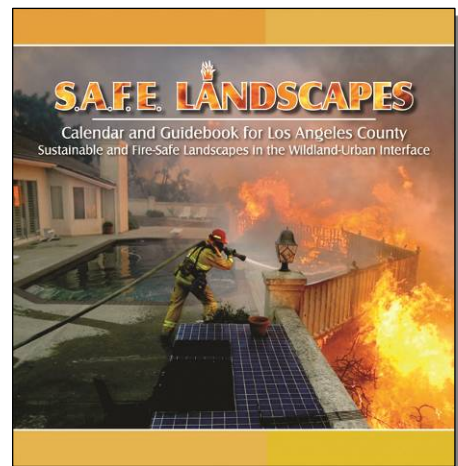


2. FIRE-SAFE LANDSCAPING

Lead: UC Cooperative Extension – Los Angeles

While the work described below was not directly funded through the WMA this period, the core materials (primarily the revised calendar and guidebook for the 2009 year) were originally developed and distributed through past WMA grants. Those initial grants provided a solid foundation for the continuation of this work.

In 2009, UCCE distributed information about fire and invasive plants to homeowners, landscape designers, and other interested parties through presentations at workshops, distribution of SAFE (Sustainable and Fire-Safe Landscapes) calendars and fact sheets, and through the SAFE Landscapes project website, <http://groups.ucanr.org/SAFE/>.



This included presenting and distributing print information about invasive plants at the following events:

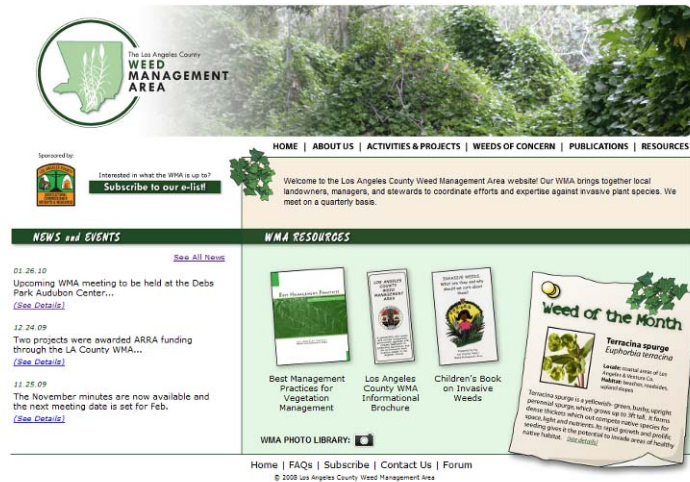
- 2/4/2009, Southern California Regional Fire Summit, Cal Poly Pomona, 104 attendees.
- 3/7/2009, L.A. County Master Gardener Training, 60 attendees.
- 5/1/2009, UCLA Landscape Architecture Program, 18 attendees.
- 5/11/2009, City of Monrovia Fire Department Community Education Forum on Living with Fire in the WUI, 54 attendees.
- 8/12/2009, San Bernardino County Master Gardeners Continuing Education, 25 attendees.
- 9/14/2009, Ojai Valley Horticulture Society, 19 attendees.

In addition, in collaboration with the Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, over 10,000 SAFE Landscapes Calendars were distributed through direct mail or direct contact to homeowners and residents in the Los Angeles County wildland-urban interface (WUI), with a focus on the San Gabriel and Santa Clarita Valleys. These were the same areas that were directly affected by the Station Fire in late 2009.

3. LACWMA WEBSITE

Lead: Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council

In response to the ARRA stimulus funding, a major priority for the WMA in 2009 was centered on developing a grant program structure and open RFP process. On the technical end, a grant page was built into the website to host RFP announcements and allow users to upload RFP applications into a database that can then be accessed by reviewers. The WMA co-chairs and review committee also developed a RFP template and scoring system that will be used as a foundation for any future grants that come through the WMA.



Submitted on: 2/04/10

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