

Santa Clara County WMA Meeting 12/12/23 Minutes

In attendance: Cassie Bednar (County Parks), Anna Britzman (NRCS – Hollister), Britta Bullard, Hannah Cunningham (Grassroots Ecology), Matthew Fogarty (SCV Habitat Agency), Laura Garrison (Valley Water), Eric Goldbeck-Dimon (Valley Water), Bill Halleck (MROSD), Aidona Kakouros (USFW), Julie King (SCV Habitat Agency), David Mauk (OSA), Miranda Melen (UCSC), Jennifer Mo (Valley Water), Drew Raymond (Santa Clara County Ag), Ellen Stearns (Valley Water), Pamela Trounstine (Master Gardeners), Kristen Williams (Grassroots Ecology)

Medusahead management: Drew has heard of success UC using Milestone above the labeled rate, also using glyphosate and seeding with grasses. After 15 years of managing medusahead at Arastradero, Kristen says large areas have become reduced to patches, but no end in sight. Missed individuals cause patches to move around; in areas that have been consistently mowed at the 'soft dough' stage of the embryo, there's less. Hannah recommends mowing a greater area than where medusahead is found to catch hidden individuals, monitoring twice rather than once a year and following up. Medusahead seems to favor drainages. Use CalFlora to track locations, break an area into zones, walk them thoroughly in early May, and target mowing for soft dough stage (KW, HC). David wants to try flash grazing early with cattle before the grass becomes unpalatable. Populations are hard to spot. Kristen has flagged a patch, raked everything to the flag, and left the flag in place for the following year to concentrate and locate infestations, but it is time consuming.

Myriophyllum: VW is in the process of figuring out how to treat at Calero. Cassie says rangers have seen it in other reservoirs and will ask them which ones. Confirm not native *M. sibiricum* by number of leaf segments < 14 (*spicatum* has 14+). Matthew has *M. aquaticum* in a stock pond within dispersal distance of tiger salamander. Treating *spicatum* at Calero with herbicides involves holding the concentration for an extended amount of time. Hand-pulling by divers possible if infestation is small enough – need to map first before deciding on a method. Laura: Calero can shut off inflow/outflow during herbicide application to prevent impact to drinking water.

Holly oaks: sneak attack by non-native *Quercus ilex* (Jennifer)? Common as street trees, have been popping up along creeks for a long time. No Cal-IPC rating or evaluation. Leaves are very variable and can look like coast live oak when young / growing in deep shade. Count pairs of veins to distinguish, generally < 5 for coast, > 7 for holly. Produces many acorns every year, difficult to kill with glyphosate, more success with triclopyr. How about tarping the stumps? Best time to tarp? VW will experiment with it this winter. Possible hybridization (Aidona)? Shouldn't be possible, holly oak is a white oak and coast live is a red oak, but maybe worth testing the funny-looking ones.

Project updates: David is tackling a big barbed goat grass project with a new herbicide (same AI as Envoy but more concentrated). Jennifer treated a yellow star area with Milestone and is doing hand removals of ivy and vinca, which do not respond to herbicide. Vinca tarp experiment: in areas where vinca was removed, David tarped some areas and left others uncovered as an experiment. Vinca came back in untarped areas, but not tarped.

Santa Clara Co. WMA MOU – Drew is reviving old MOU to formalize WMA and qualify for CDFA funding. Revised MOU will be sent out by email. If you would like to be a formal signer, please reach out to Drew or Jennifer. Santa Clara County WMA page on Cal-IPC is sadly outdated – Miranda offered to update.

There will be no WMA meeting in February. Instead, Valley Water will be hosting a stinkwort workshop led by Miranda Melen of UCSC on Thursday 2/15. If interested, please fill out this short form with your contact info to save the date: tiny.cc/stinkwortsurvey - see flyer below.

Stinkwort Workshop



Save The Date!
Thursday
February 15, 2024
9 AM – 4 PM

Location: Valley Water, San Jose, CA
(some components of the workshop will be available for remote attendance)

Please complete this quick survey to
indicate your interest in the workshop:
tiny.cc/stinkwortsurvey

