Invasive Plant IPM (Integrated Pest Management)

Panelists: Matt Bahm, Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP; Joe DiTomaso, UC Davis; Ken Moore, Wildlands Restoration Team; Cindy Roessler, Midpensinsula Open Space District

Central ideas:

1. Understands and uses biology and ecology of system.
2. Environmental/human health and safety are of great concern.
3. Do not necessarily have to use multiple treatment strategies, just the most safe and efficient method.

More thoughts:

1. Usually utilize as many strategies to prevail against invasive plants.
2. On larger scale, even using herbicides becomes a very useful tool.
3. Control methods must look at plant seasonality, weather, and growth habit.
4. IPM originated for ag and urban use, now wildland weed operations are the last to use.
5. Efficiency is important: herbicide sometime most efficient and safe, depends on other feasible treatment options.
6. Must be able to justify treatments.
7. What method? Why? When? Where? All these questions come into play.
8. Consider sensitive ecosystems.
9. PPE for staff, and safely of park visitors is paramount.

"Intelligent Persons Method"

1. Safety (no unnecessary harm done to people or planet)
2. Effectiveness (goal is reached)
3. Efficient (resources fully utilized)

Manager tools and forums:

1. Go to http://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/listservs.php to sign up for the email lists.
2. http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/IPC/
3. http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/
4. http://wric.ucdavis.edu

Herbicide Concerns:

1. Companies need to take into account wildland application.
2. Labels not written well, just what law requires.
3. In some areas they are vaguely written to protect the companies.
4. Pest Control Advisors may give different recommendations than land managers.

5. Still use herbicides because they are cheaper than most other methods. Can be very effective in some situations.
6. Need extremely well trained applicators.

Biocontrol

1. Often times, not the most effective, but can kill hard –to-find-plants.
2. In Australia, study says that for every $1 spent, $23 is saved.
3. Planning and testing of biocontrol takes enormous amount of time.