# 6000 Volunteer Detection Partners

The Problem, Possibilities, Potential and Pitfalls

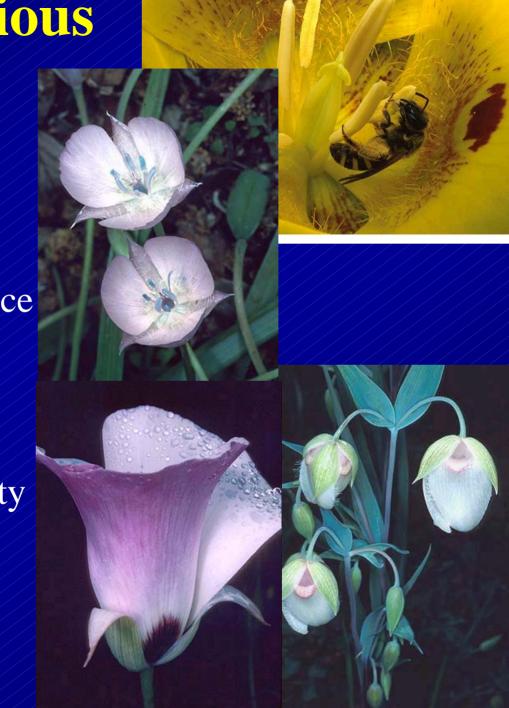
Bob Case

California Native Plant Society

Cal-IPC

Why Hate Noxious Weeds?

- Agricultural Costs
  - competition with crops
  - lost productive potential
- Environmental Consequence
  - reduced biodiversity
  - lost interrelationships
  - anerobisis-alleopathy
- Aesthetics and Accessibility
- Physical barriers
  - boating, pumps, harvesting
- Defend the Homeland

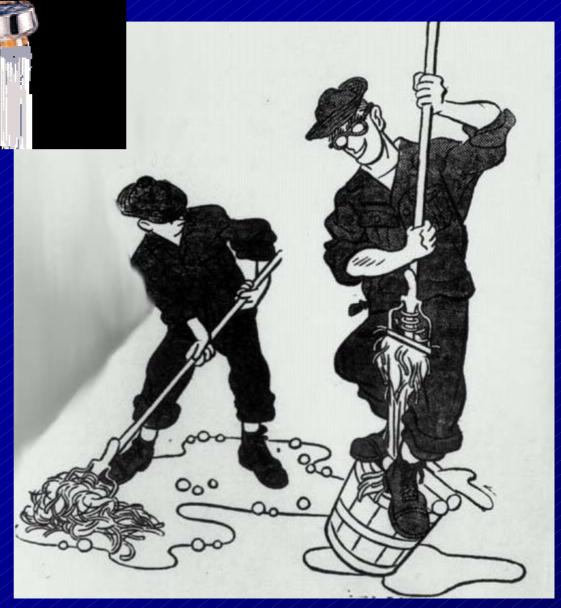


The faucet is running, the sink is overflowing, the room is flooded and as you look into the room you spot a mop in the corner, what do you do?

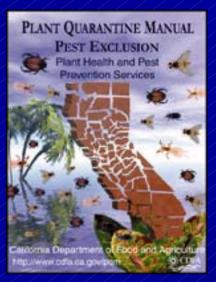


Make some headway!
Mop faster fool!





## Quarantine Regulations?



- What happens if the faucet is still dribbling?
- What <u>is</u> the most cost effective and environmentally sound way to deal with invasive plants?
- How can we take care of existing populations that are spreading into new habitats and areas?

#### The Problem

- More weeds are coming into California
  - Ethnic botany
     --Seed catalogues
  - Internet commerce -- "medicinal plants"
- Agricultural Commissioners work load increased, budget reduced
- CDFA "Weed Tours" have ended
- Expanded definitions and impacts of invasive plants -it's not just Ag now
- "We need more trained, enthusiastic eyes out there"
  Bottom Line How Do We Get Them?

#### CURRENT PROGRAM

- County and CDFA detection biologists are trained.
  - systematic searches and surveys in areas of highrisk with eradication of small populations.
  - give limited training to land managers
- There are not enough trained biologists at the state or county level to cover the entire state.
- CDFA and herbaria botanists identify weeds and alert the correct agencies
- Weed Management Areas have greatly facilitated the training of "detection partners." Lost state funding

## State Weed Plan Early Detection

- Early detection -- combination of highly trained detection biologists and "detection partners," who receive short training sessions in identification of key species.
- The "detection partners" can number in the hundreds or thousands and are trained through workshops, articles, brochures, and other outreach methods. They are a crucial link in early detection because of the vast area of the state they can traverse in their activities on the land.



#### Government agencies

National Forest Service

National Park Service







- Some agencies already have control programs
- BUT how many have trained detection staff?







## Army Corps of Engineers

- CLASSES to RECOGNIZE the NATIVES
- Large projects in the west and California where equipment is brought in and soil is disturbed
- Pest Management Information Series (PMIS)
   CD and online



### County Road Crews and CalTrans









- Engineers
- Road Crews
- Annual meetings
- Monthly meetings





Early Workshops and presentations brought some Success!



## **EXPANSION-The Approach**

- Pulling Together Initiative Grant
- Five or Six Trainers
- Contact Possible Cooperative Organizations
  - Cal-IWAC and CINWCC
- Awareness Campaign-WMA Area Specific Brochures
- Identification Workshops focus on 20 species
- Specimen and Data Collection
- Encouragement and Rewards

#### Possible Cal-IPC Action

- Produce a pamphlet with pictures of the Cal-IPC Red Alert weeds and guide to their identification.
- Web site red list photos and current distribution information
- Possible Outreach Identification Workshops for Cal-IPC Red Alert weeds.

## Potential non-agency Detection Partners

Property Owners- Ranchers



- Watershed groups
- Non-Governmental Organizations:
  - CNPS, Audubon, Sierra Club





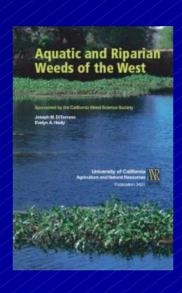
- University/college and herbaria staff
- UC Cooperative Extension-Master Gardeners
- NO Batteries Required



#### Available Resources



- PMIS
- UC online
- Encycloweedia
- DiTomaso Books
- Wildland Weeds --- Cal-IPC
- Cal-IPC Classes
- WMA "Dirty Dozen and Top Ten Brochures
- many more





PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE

What is WeedRIC?

The Weed Research and Information Center is a foral point for wood research and management throughout Colinamia.

Whee SRC provious a depridently for the University in weed science that prings tegefnot experimental many discolusions. Information seekers, can easily access many weed-fielded top los at the WeedRC office and website.

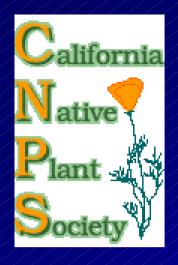
WeedRIC is a highly visible corner for technology transfer and research coordination.

WeedRIC provides a forum where stakeholders and University researchers interest and share information.

University of California





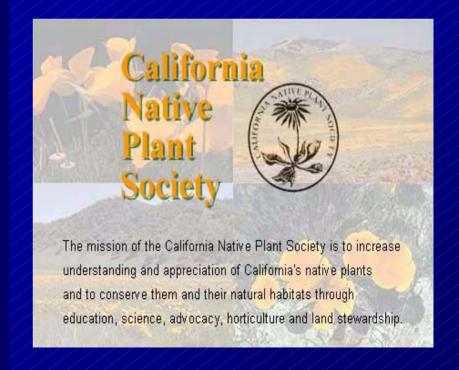


## CNPS a gold mine of expertise and devotion

- 34 Local chapters cover the state
- Local knowledge and floras
- Professionals and dedicated plant lovers
- Frequent field trips and observations
- Some chapters have been visited, more are scheduled

## cnps.web.aplus.net/cgi-bin/nc/bridge.cgi CNPS databank

- Looking for common plants?
- Web Index of **California Wild Plants** natives - naturalized common escapes invasives a service of the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society



## What do you do if you spot a suspicious plant?

- Record location on simple map, take GPS coordinates if possible
- Fill out a data sheet with name of collector, owner of property etc.
- Collect, and submit one sample to local AG Commissioner, press if necessary
- Keep one sample compare and show after identification is certain



### Where do I take the weed?



- Local Agricultural Commissioner
- UC cooperative extension
- University herbarium
- CDFA Plant Diagnostics Laboratory
  - Dr. Fred Hrusa

#### Post Detection Action

- Follow-up essential by Commissioner's staff or WMA even if report is a known population
- Actual work may be accomplished by an agency or group, which specializes in on-theground projects.
- Some populations can be controlled or eradicated by dedicated persistent volunteers

#### Possible Pitfalls



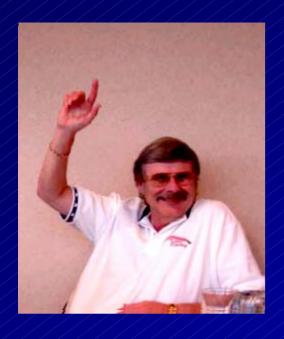
- report poor data
- report a common weed
- report to wrong agency or person
- Don't get feedback
- Ag commissioner unable to take action

#### Timeline for Results

- 2006 contact groups and agencies complete online guide and links
- 2006-2007 Awareness Presentation to cooperative groups
- 2007-2008 Invasive Plant Identification and Reporting Workshops
- 2009 Continue process

### Possible reward system

- Free lunch?
- Certificate?
- Monetary reward based on the cost savings of early detection?



## Levels of Participation

- All we need is a few good passionate warriors-hate is action
- Contact local partners
- Deliver presentations
- Choose your level of participation



