

MEETING NOTES:

Semi-Annual Meeting SLO Weed Management Area/ Central Coast Invasive Species Action Network

March 22, 2017 – 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Meeting at: SLO County Department of Agriculture, 2156 Sierra Way

Prepared by: Jon Hall, Land Conservancy of SLO

Agenda Items and Notes

1. Roundtable Introductions and Organization Updates

Notes:

- Karen Lowerison, James Moore and Kim Dawn introduced themselves as the representatives from SLO County Ag and gave a brief update on what they have been spraying.
- John Sayers with the CA State Parks, Morro Coast District, has received two grants for dune stabilization and iceplant removal on the Sand Spit in Montana de Oro State Park.
- David Chipping, representing the California Native Plant Society, announced that CNPS has a Flora of Carrizo Plains pdf for download. Cost is \$10. Given the spectacular wildflower bloom this year, this is sure to be a popular download.
- Mark Skinner with the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) gave an update on the invasive plant work occurring in the Oceano Dunes on State Parks property. He was accompanied by Tim Sharpe from Diverse Pest Management and Nancy LaGrille with CA State Parks. They have been busy eradicating 14 acres of European beachgrass (*Ammophila arenaria*) and controlling 64 acres of veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) in areas surrounding the only known population of the endangered Nipomo lupine (*Lupinus nipomensis*) discussions occurred around management in these areas. Jon Hall with the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (Land Conservancy) stated that half the area occupied by the Nipomo lupine is grazed annually during the dry season when this annual plant is not growing. The areas not grazed have been traditionally treated with herbicide.
- Royce Larcen with the UC Cooperative Extension office announced a Ground Squirrel & Weed Control Workshop on Monday, March 27th.
- Kelly Kephart with PG&E gave an update on work happening around Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. They have been working on crown daisy (*Glebionus coronaria*) and French broom (*Genista monspessulana*).

2. Invasive Species Alerts

Asphodelus fistulosis (onion weed) (Cal-IPC rating MODERATE) – county wide

John Sayers with CA State Parks brought in samples of onion weed for people to see. This plant has been steadily spreading along roadsides along the coast throughout the county. It appears to be spreading

due to annual roadside mowing that occurs right when the plant sets seeds. John is concerned because he is starting to see this weed jump from the roadsides into neighboring wildlands. Most notable, it is becoming a problem on State Parks property at Estero Bluffs. John was hoping to talk to Cal Trans about the problem, but they were unable to make this WMA meeting. John will follow up with them after this meeting.

John also brought in a new non-native plant he has found in Morro Bay called *Allium neapolitanum* or white garlic. This is currently the only documented occurrence of this in SLO County.

Genista monspessulana (French broom) (Cal-IPC rating HIGH) - South Hills Natural Reserve

Jon Hall with the Land Conservancy has been working with the City of San Luis Obispo to remove French broom from the South Hills Natural Reserve near Broad Street. The population is coming out of a private property adjoining the open space, but is now starting to spread into the serpentine native grassland. Now that the large plants are removed, follow-up needs to occur annually to remove seedlings, and outreach work needs to happen within the neighborhood adjoining this property about not planting invasive plants in their gardens.



Photo 1: French broom escaping at the wildland-urban interface on the South Hills Natural Reserve.

3. South Central Coast Eradication Plan

➤ Overview of eradication plan:

Notes: Dana Morawitz from the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) gave a presentation on the history of the South Central Coast Early Detection/Rapid Response and Eradication Plan that was developed by the SLO WMA and SB WMA with help from Cal-IPC. Dana did a live presentation of how to get on-line and use Cal-IPC's Cal Weed Mapper Tool to access this plan. The link to that plan can be found here: http://www.cal-ipc.org/WMAregions/region_southcentralcoast.php. There was some discussion that the Santa Barbara WMA has not been as active since their coordinator David Chang has left. Royce Larsen informed the group that a new person, Mel Graham, has taken David's place in SB working under Stephanie Stark.

➤ (RCD) Update on grant received from WCB to implement plan

Notes: Audrey Weichert with the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LT RCD) updated the WMA on a grant proposal that was submitted to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The grant, titled "South Central Coast Invasive Weed Eradication San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties", was funded for \$405,000 towards the eradication of five species of invasive plants in both San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. This cooperative project will fully eradicate sea lavender, Russian wheatgrass, Canada thistle, Dalmatian toadflax, and Japanese dodder which have invaded coastal grasslands and riparian areas. These restoration efforts will benefit many species, including a number of Federal and State listed species.

The US-LT RCD will be the project lead with support from the California Invasive Plant Council. Audrey Weichert will be the point person for the RCD. The project kick-off meeting occurred in February 2017 with the core implementin partners. For the weeds in SLO County, implementing partners will include John Sayers (CA State Parks, Morro Coast District) for the invasive sea lavender, Ronnie Glick (CA State Parks, Ocean Dunes) for Russian wheatgrass, and Karen Lowerison (SLO County Ag) for Canada thistle. In Santa Barbara County, partners include Andy Brooks with the UC Reserve System for the invasive sea lavender, Valerie Hubert with Forest Service for dalmation toadflax, and the non-profit group Channel Islands Restoration working with the Japanese doddor.

➤ Roundtable Species Control Updates

Limonium duriusculum, Invasive sea lavender, presented by John Sayers: John is now at 95% of the original population discovered by Dave Chipping in Morro Bay. He has been very consistent with his control over the last 5 years. Control is by hand removal. In addition to the population by the State Park Marina, there are also 4 individual plants that were removed from the interior of the Sand Spit. Audrey asked John how he records the population each year. John said, currently he only records new outlier populations.

Elymus farctus, Russian wheatgrass, presented by Nancy LaGrille: A lot of the Russian wheatgrass was uncovered by the last storm. It's curretn range is from the Osos Flaco boardwalk to Pismo Beach right below the Kon Tiki Inn. There was originally 22 acres, which is now down to 2.6. The plant seems to only

spread by rhizome. Mark Skinner indicated that the storms have carried some out to sea. This could be a problem with new areas getting infested. Jon Hall asked Nancy how she tells the difference between Russian wheatgrass and the European beachgrass that grows in the same area. Nancy said the Russian wheatgrass is much shorter, with multiple stems. It also has a more fibrous root system.

Cirsium arvense, Canada thistle, presented by Karen Lowerison and James Moore: This plant is dioecious. James has monitored it 2-3 times a year since 2011. The last 2-3 yrs he hasn't found anything. The property is a private parcel owned by Chevron.

➤ Species ID cards and how to report

Dave Chipping asked if this project intended to look for new populations in addition to the ones controlled. Audrey confirmed that part of this project was to look for new populations too. Jon Hall and Audrey introduced the group to species ID cards that Cal-IPC has created to help with the Early Detection/Rapid Response effort. Samples of the cards were passed out for the group to look at. They can also be downloaded from this website: <http://cal-ipc.org/ip/edrr/index.php#speciesIDcards>.

One of these cards gives instruction for how to use the card and who to contact. This will be updated specifically for our group with contact information if you find one of these targets. We will then send these out to the WMA participants. This is in-line with David Chippings recommendation at the last WMA meeting that "some of the money go towards informational leaflets with pictures of the target plants for the WMA participants to disseminate"

➤ Tracking populations in Cal Flora

Dana Morawitz from Cal-IPC gave the group a demonstration on how we can track populations of invasive plants using Cal Flora's "Observer Pro". There is a nifty tool that allows us to add a new assessment year after year on the desktop. This will be a real asset as we try to evaluate our success in achieving eradication of our target species. Dana showed the group how you can link to Cal Flora off of the CAL WeedMapper website's Regions Page. You can use this to search for new observations and it has a stack of Assessments.

In addition to the desktop version, there is an Observer APP on iphone for free, but you need to sign up for a Cal Flora Account. If you have an android based phone, you can use "Weed Manager" that allows you to record more details.

Audrey talked about creating a cheat sheet for the group. She used it to map plants on a restoration project and said it wasn't very intuitive, but once she figured it out, it was extremely useful. Attached to these meeting minutes is part of Dana's Presentation, that could be used as an "Intro to Observer Pro" to help people in this WMA get started. Observer Pro is only available on Android right now (though an IOS version is in beta, should be ready in May). You can do a fair amount of mapping with this application even if you don't have a subscription. If you choose Organization: Independent and Project: Advanced Data Collection, you have a basic form that is good for mapping invasive plants.

David Chipping recommended some of the money go towards informational leaflets with pictures of the target plants for the WMA participants to disseminate. It was also noted, that this is only the second grant of this type that WCB has approved in the State. The success of this project will really inform our future ability to get WCB to fund invasive plant projects. Further discussions during this topic involved ways to track the work being performed by all implementing partners. One possibility discussed was a CalFlora database tool called Weed Manager (<http://www.calflora.org/entry/weed-mgr.html>). Another tool mentioned was using Google Earth Pro which now has a free version.

4. Discussion: Clethodim, possible uses in Wildlands (Update)

Jon Hall gave an update on the status of using clethodim, a grass specific herbicide, on *Ehrharta calycina* in coastal dunes. After the last meeting, it was determined that a Section 24(c) Special Local Needs Registration through the Department of Pesticide Regulations was the best approach to get clethodim approved for use in wildlands. This had been submitted before, but was turned down because there were no good replicated studies to show control/suppression. Since that time, there was a replicated study on the Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge comparing efficacy of clethodim and sethoxydim, another grass specific herbicide. In this study it was shown that clethodim worked better than sethoxydim. Robert Ehn with R3 Ag Consulting, LLC is piloting it through this process.

5. Los Osos – Working to Protect Baywood Fine Sands Communities

Notes: The group “Celebrate Los Osos” has asked our WMA for support in a grant they are writing to organize a “Community pull” event for Sahara mustard, which is spreading rapidly throughout Los Osos as a result of Sewer construction activities. The never-ending saga of the Los Osos sewer continues! As acting coordinator of the SLO WMA, Jon Hall directed the group to also include the invasive plant *Emex spinosum*, or devil’s thorn, to the community pull. This plant is also a winter annual, and was identified as a high priority target by the SLO WMA in our Regional Eradication Plan. By including Emex, Jon felt confident that the WMA would be supportive of the effort. Jon also told Celebrate Los Osos, that the Land Conservancy could help with outreach for the event by announcing it to Conservancy Members that live in the area. It’s great to see grass roots efforts like this popping up. One of the concerns of Celebrate Los Osos was the spread of the Sahara mustard along roadsides, which they are not treating. The SLO County Ag representative indicated that they had tried a few different herbicides as a trial for control. Dave Chipping emphasized that if you organize mechanical pulling, you will have a public relations problem if you spray. Dave said that Henry Bonifas with the County Public Works has been working with crews from the Men’s Colony to pull weeds. We could potentially coordinate with him to remove weeds on the roadside.

6. Odds & Ends:

- Cape Ivy Biocontrol Update: From John Sayers – USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service published a draft environmental assessment on March 24 for the proposed release of a gall-forming fly (*Parafreutreta regalis*) into the continental United States for use as a biological control agent to reduce the severity of Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata*) infestations. That species is now ready for release. USDA is currently waiting for water levels to go down before they begin

releases. If successful, insect feeding activity can reduce plant growth by up to 50%. So far flies have already been released at 7 locations in the North and East Bay near San Francisco. The other promising biocontrol agent, a moth, is still in quarantine undergoing testing.

- Heritage Oaks and Oak Woodlands Ordinance – Update? Notes: The group discussed the upcoming vote to pass a Heritage Oak and Oak Woodlands Ordinance. Since our meeting, The County Board of Supervisors adopted the permanent Oak Woodland Ordinance at a regular hearing on April 11, 2017. The permanent ordinance will take effect May 11, 2017. In order for there to not be a gap between the Interim Ordinance No. 3325 and the permanent ordinance, the Board also adopted a second extension to Ordinance No. 3325 which will expire when the permanent ordinance takes effect.
- WMA funding budget request letter: CA State Assembly- Notes: As of April 7, 2017, Assembly Member Jim Wood (District 2, North Coast) and seven co-sponsors have submitted a letter to the Budget Committee requesting \$2.0 million in next year's budget for the state's Weed Management Areas (WMAs). To convey the importance of this investment in protecting California's natural infrastructure, The California Invasive Plant Council is working to rally all of the CA WMAs to show how many organizations and individuals across the state care about controlling invasive plants. We discussed the best way for organizations to help with this effort. The link can be found here: <http://cal-ipc.org/policy/state/FundWMAs.php>
- Invasive Plant Funding Opportunities – useful to have an updated spreadsheet? Notes: The group discussed the usefulness of having a spreadsheet that shows available grants for invasive plant control. Everyone agreed that this would be useful. It was also mentioned that the local group SPOKES which offers support for non-profit groups, has an online search tool for Foundation grants. **Action Item: WMA Coordinator to put a spreadsheet of grant opportunities in a google drive for the group to add to. When complete, the link will be emailed to the group.**
- WMA group communication – emails still ok? Notes: The group discussed if it would be appropriate to create some kind of listserv for communication within the WMA partners. Everyone agreed that they prefer to continue doing correspondence through email.
- The next general meeting will be held in September of 2017. Karen Lowerison will set up the room for our next meeting. Thank you Karen!

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7 | Page



Apps

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Calflora Observer Pro

John Malpas - June 9, 2014

Education

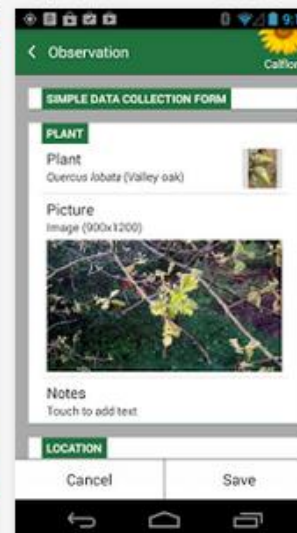
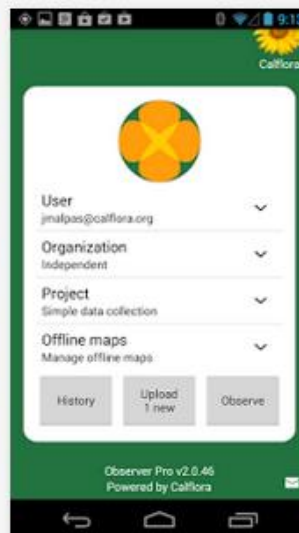
Installed

📱 This app is compatible with all of your devices.

★★★★☆ (11)

8+1

+9 Recommend this on Google





Calflora

User

Guest



Organization

None



Project

None



Offline maps

Manage offline maps



History

Upload
0 new

Observe



Offline maps

ALA Tilden Lone Oak 13to 19

13.6 MB



ALA UCB 15to 19

12.5 MB



ALA huckleberry 11to 19

11.5 MB



ALA tildensteamers 12to 20

36.5 MB



ALP Blue Lakes 15to 16

12.5 MB



ALP Lake Kirkwood 14to 19

63.9 MB (ready)



ALP West Central Alpine Co 11to 14

80.4 MB



CCA John Muir 15to 20

40.0 MB



LAK Knoxville 15to 17

207.9 MB



LAK Knoxville S Sofres 18to 21



CLEAR

CANCEL

OK

< Plant



arun

Clear

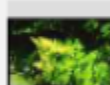
Scientific names

All plants



Aruncus dioicus

Bride's feathers



Aruncus dioicus var. *acuminatus*

Bride's feathers



Arundo donax *

Giant reed



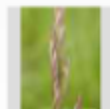
Dulichium arundinaceum

Three way sedge



Dulichium arundinaceum var. *arundinaceum*

Three-way sedge



Festuca arundinacea *


Reed fescue

Cancel

OK

21:23

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Calflora

arun


Clear

Scientific names


All plants




Scientific names




Common names




us




us var. acuminatus




Bride's feathers




Arundo donax *
Giant reed



Dulichium arundinaceum
Three way sedge



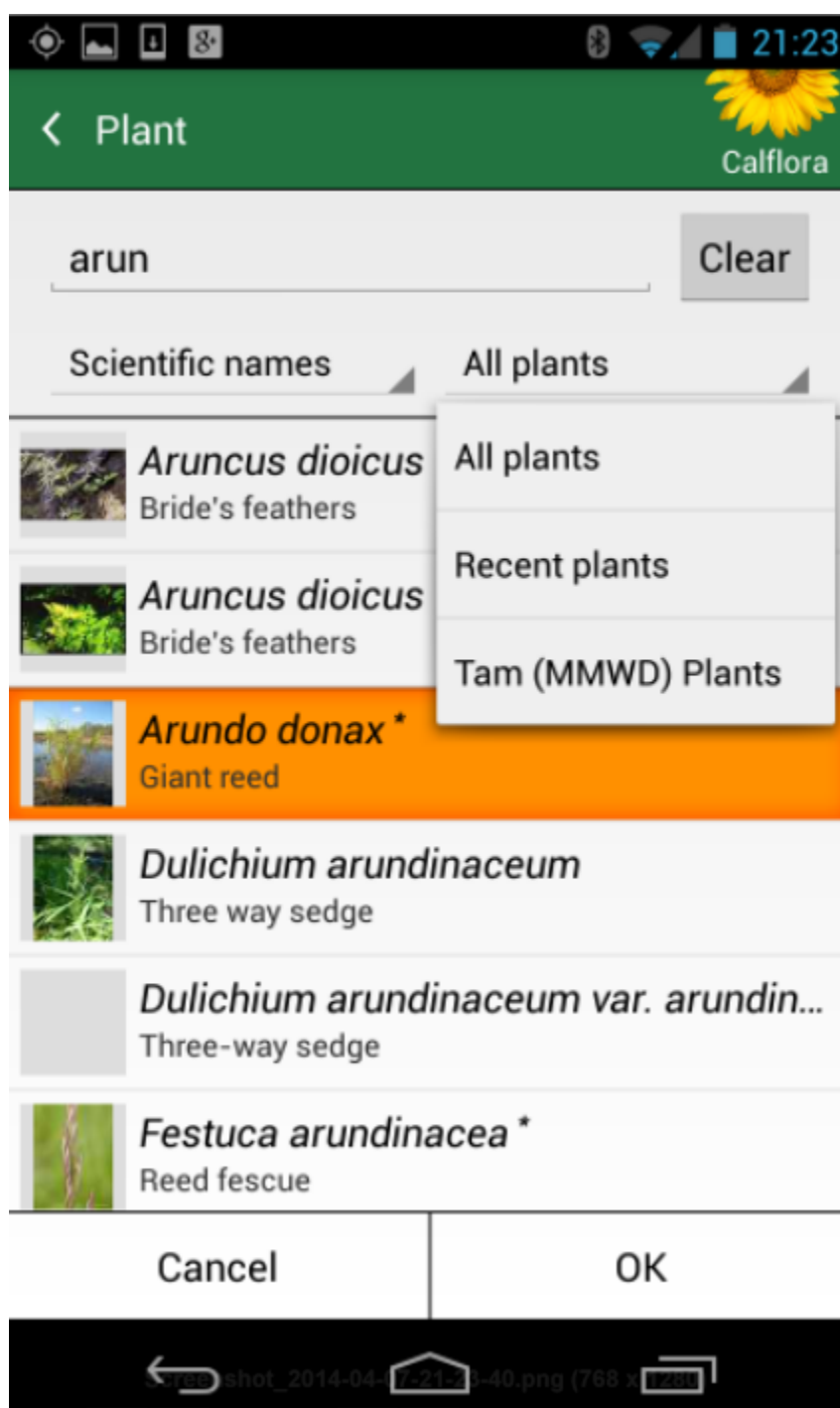
Dulichium arundinaceum var. arundin...
Three-way sedge



Festuca arundinacea *
Reed fescue

Cancel

OK



< Observation



LOCATION

Map

37:50:6.77292, -122:15:27.26172



Buffer (meters)

Touch to set buffer



Management Area

Touch to select



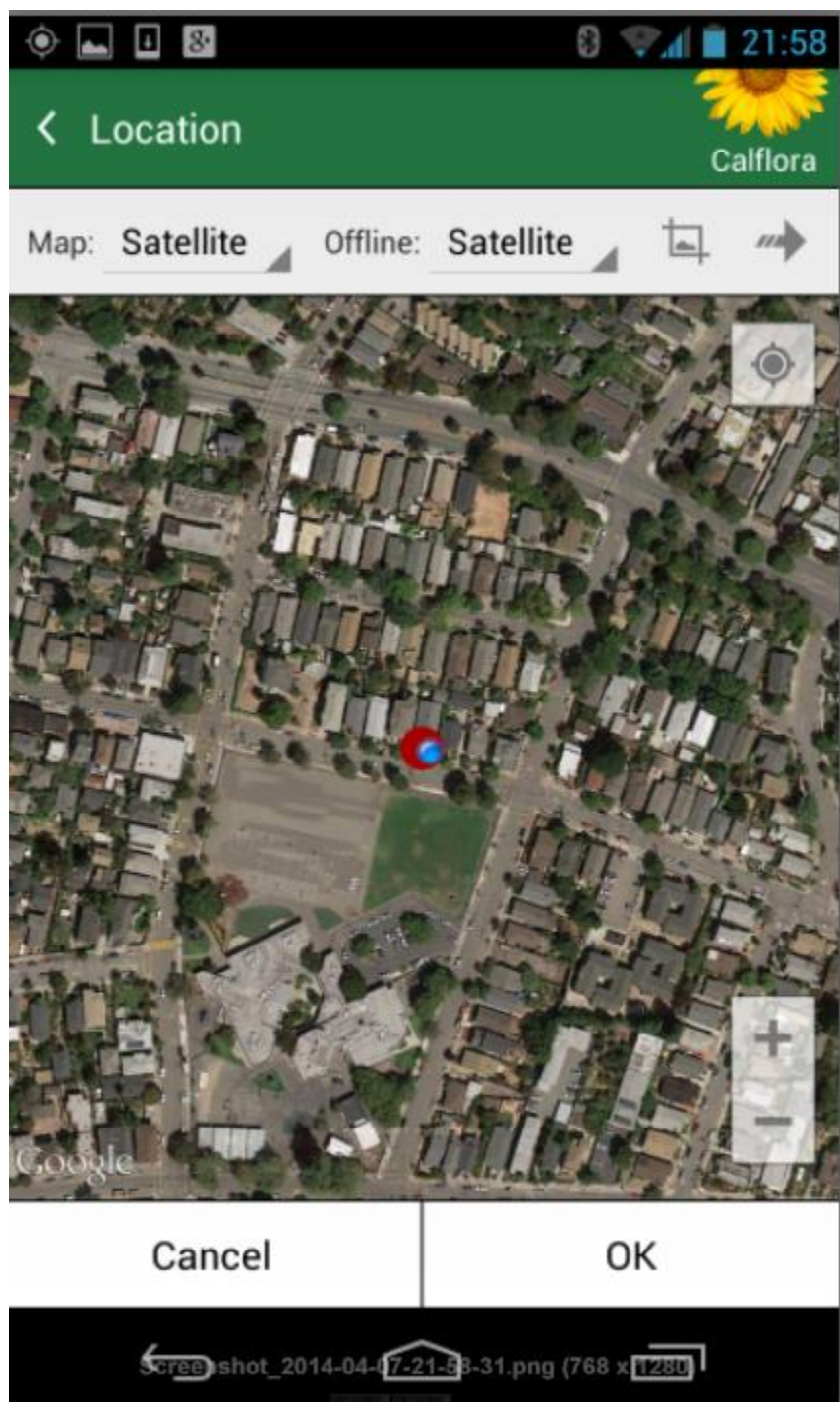
Location Description

Touch to add text

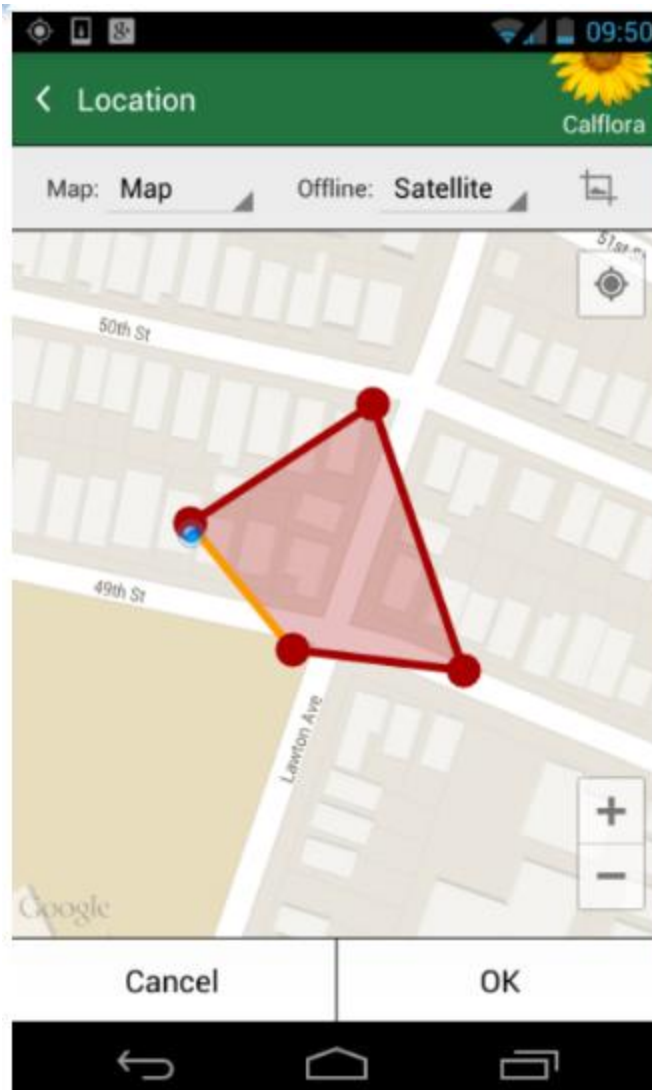
Cancel





Save










Drawing polygons





21:55

Calflora

< Observation

ASSESSMENT

Status

Touch to select

Number of Plants

Touch to select

Percent Cover

Touch to select

Distribution

Touch to select

Phenology

Touch to select

TREATMENT

Treatment Method




Touch to select

Herbicide

Touch to select

Cancel

Save

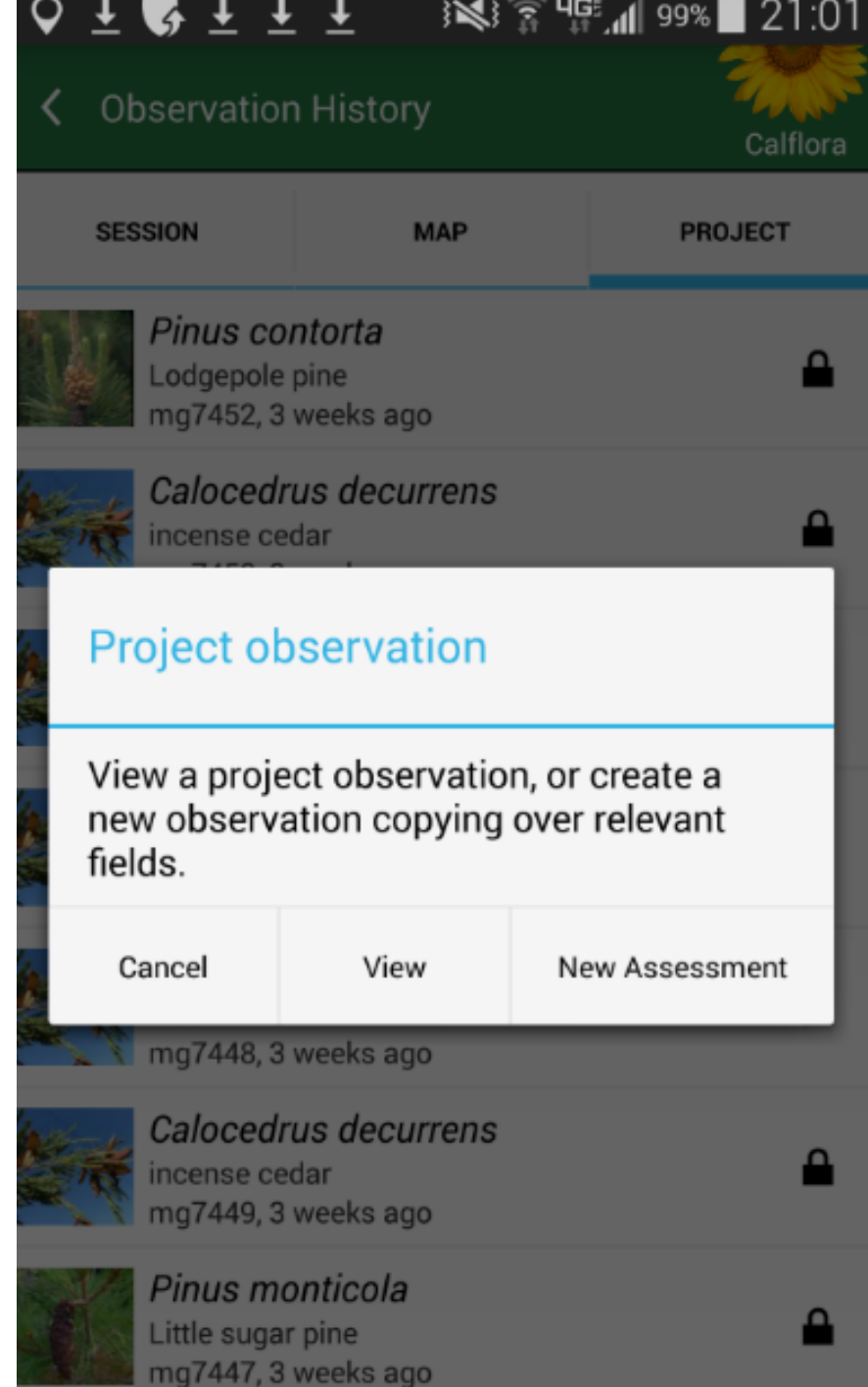




Observer Pro Android Application

- Don't need data plan at all
- Don't need wifi in the field
- Do need wifi before you go in the field and after to login and (later) upload observations

Coming back the following year for a new assessment of the same patch



Satellites and Accuracy



Garmin GLO Bluetooth GPS for iOS and Android



Dual XGPS150A

Universal Bluetooth® GPS receiver for portable devices



GNS 2000 GPS MFI GLONASS RECEIVER

