

CalIPC working group—Coastal Dune Restoration and pampas grass
CalIPC 2004 Annual Conference October 7, 2004

Facilitator: Jane Rodgers
Tech. Expert: Kim Cooper

Minutes

Group had brief introductions and individuals discussed projects and issues. These notes summarize group discussions and future action items for this informal dune group.

Individual Reports and Comments

Peter Warner (state parks): working on *Ammophila arenaria*(AMAR)/*Cortadaria selloana* /*Cortadaria jubata*; plovers, rare wildflowers, herbicide opposition. Had money to initiate project on 60-acres, however funding ran out and no follow-up occurred. Issues include dealing with iceplant piles, piling material on existing mats. Is doing a study.

Greg Nowell (All Seasons Weed Control Inc.): spraying has much less regeneration.

Kelly Rose (FBW): 8.5-acre project in backdune of a salt marsh, very removed from dune system by surrounding development. All volunteer project, hand pulling. Question—will leaving iceplant on site alter soil? Have huge volunteer force, have been sifting sand to remove weed propagules. Thinking about bringing in sand. Can't use mechanical treatment due to number of natives and rarities on site.

Peter Brastow/Lew Stringer: Presidio has successfully brought in sand to effectively bury weed propagules, in particular BRDI, under 2" of sand. Is the BRDI invasion climate related/temporary/long-term? May be simply the removal of iceplant allowing new invasions. Have used rice straw to successfully kick out *Erharta* at small scale if done early w/small populations.

Tim Doherty (GOGA) has oxalis up after iceplant removal. Tim Hyland has used 7% Roundup, Dan Glusenkamp's used 2% with success.

Kim Cooper: at Pt. Reyes they prioritize sites based on surrounding exotic species. Look to remove iceplant at sites that are weedfree on adjacent sites (esp. BRDI). Some success w/mechanical burial method.

Tim Hyland—burn AMAR, spray roundup. Burning good to reduce biomass.

Dan Glusenkamp—uses 2% roundup for small patches of AMAR.

Group questions—What other species are coming in? *Rumex*, *Ehrharta erecta*, *Centaurea melitensis*, *Oxalis pes-caprae*, *Bromus diandrus*, *Bromus tectorum*, *Vulpia*

bromoides, *Tetragonia tetragonioides*, *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*, other Damn Yellow Composites, *Senecio elegans*, slender-leaved iceplant.

Scale is critical in technique, plus rare spp., number of volunteers, herbicide, etc.

Guadalupe –

Big area with multiple jurisdiction, difficult to sort out/get all doing same or similar management. Has website?

Dunescenter.org.

- Has organized “Dune Quest” which is meeting regularly to discuss dune issues
 - (similar to Dune Guild?).
- Project funded through oil spill dollars.
- Using bulldozers to remove pampas grass.
- Iceplant last priority because it is so easy to remove; need to get other more difficult species out first.
- Spraying veldtgrass.
- *Senecio elegans* moving in.
- Treating all exotics, not just invasives. 2-4 month interval spraying for veldtgrass. If you can’t follow up, don’t bother starting.
 - Humidicide & general (roundup?) and lots of surfactant for V.E; spot spray after first pass. Fusselade just forces dormancy.
- Local ranches still planting veldtgrass; some experimental grazing but probably won’t stop invasion, just lowers seed production.
- Peter Warner encouraged folks to get stories like this to CDFA—notion that federal land managers are trying to discourage/eliminate weed populations while adjacent landowners are planting those same species. UniCal spent lots of money to eradicate *Senecio elegans* and has been successful at project site, except for adjacent populations that are providing a seedsource.

Group question: Has anyone published their experiences with dune restoration?

Answer: NO.

Update on Dune Guild—has been around for a while, but communication is lacking, sharing and starting from scratch happens a lot. People interested in guild, and suggested meeting at Pt. Reyes. There was group interest in having a joint Dune Guild/Dunequest meeting and also a joint SERCal/CalIPC meeting (2006!).

Herbicide comment—some situations have a narrow window of opportunity to get insipient populations, herbicides at right moment can nip in bud rather than having to use lots more herbicides later when pop’s out of control. Examples include knapweed at Glacier NP and water hyacinth in California. There was a question about spraying effects on non-target species, and availability of data. Joe Ditomaso has website link for this info. Regina at Vandenberg is starting a study with pampas spraying and pitfall traps to look at effects of herbicides. Mixed response from USFWS on use of herbicides.

Peter Warner encouraged folks to write down observations. There is a serious lack of scientific projects/studies/publications. Interested in seed viability, other life history information.

Pampas treatment discussion: use 2% roundup? Higher concentration? At 2% some are seeing 50% resprout/no kill. No translocation between culms so complete coverage w/herbicide is essential. Cutting first helps, but can't always do this. Folks discussed feasibility/appropriateness of cutting plumes—is it worthwhile? Consensus was yes, depending on scale.

Folks discussed value of building in time and money for report writing, data collection, analysis, and sharing of information. Interns or partnerships could assist w/writing.

Discussions Summary: Projects have developed successful techniques for iceplant, AMAR, but main group issues are--- communication/sharing information, new invaders, project scale (varies from less than 10-acres to over 1800-acres), long-term project planning. There was interest in a listserve, but no one took the lead on this.

WORKING GROUP ACTION ITEMS!

Project Summary Briefs

Participants of working group agreed to send Jane Rodgers a paragraph discussing current or past project details, results, and planning, with contact information, within the next 2-4 weeks. Participants can send more, including reports, informal notes, anything, as attached files or in email. Jane will compile them and let the group know where this info will be posted—tentatively at the Elkhorn Slough site (www.elkhornslough.org) but possibly other website with link through CalIPC. Elkhorn Slough/Coastal Education Program may be a web venue for storing and sharing dune restoration information. Kim Cooper will look into this with program director Gray Hayes.

Future Meetings to Share Information

Kim Cooper volunteered to be the liason between CalIPC and SERCal; Peter Brastow volunteered to assist her with this. She will be in touch with SERCal Dune Guild rep. Victor(?) and report back to the group. At a minimum there will be opportunities for a joint meeting at the 2006 CalIPC/SERCal meeting. There may be a meeting venue in 2005 through Dunequest, Dunes Collaborative, or Dune Guild for a group meeting and field trip. Lauren Brown volunteered to help bring Dunequest and Dune Guild together and invited participants to come speak at the next Dunequest meeting(s).