## Reaching novel audiences with information about invasive species

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# Audiences for invasive species information

Invasive species managers, land managers, biologists

- Information about ecology, detection, management, policy
- Sources:
  - Cal IPC
  - UC IPM/UCCE
  - WMA's
  - Ag Commissioners
  - CDFA, USDA



#### Others?

- Public:
  - Homeowners
  - Recreational users
  - Youth
- "Unrelated" agencies and staff
- Policy/decision makers



## Novel audiences need to know

#### What

- Why invasive species are a problem
- Which invasives in their areas
- How to recognize and report
- How to prevent

#### Why

- Prevent introduction
- Prevent spread
- Treatment
  - When to call a professional
- Political/financial support





University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

## How to reach novel audiences

- Direct education on invasives
  - Media, social media, public outreach events
- Professional education
  - On the job training
- Informal education

#### Link to values

- **Environmentalists**
- Volunteers
- Health, safety, property
- STEM for youth



## **UCCE** programs

- Sustainable And Fire safE (SAFE)Landscapes
- Aquatic Invasive Species Training for Public Works Field Personnel
- California Naturalist
- (GSOB.org/ OakMapper/ PSHB)





## SAFE Landscapes

- Goal Decrease the intentional introduction of invasive plants in WUI areas
- Incorporate invasive species into fire-safe landscaping education
- Homeowners look to fire agencies and similar for information about fire safe landscaping
- Trusted sources, such as fire agencies, often recommend invasive species

## Safe Landscapes

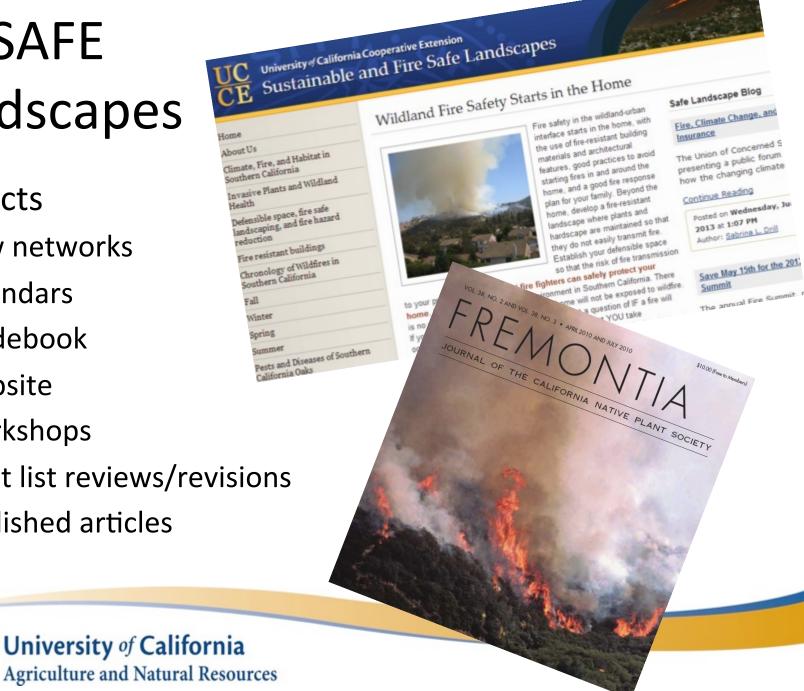
- Audiences
  - WUI Homeowners
  - Fire agencies
  - Planning agencies
  - Landscape designers

- Steering committee
  - Get input, but also form new relationships
  - Fire agencies, native plant advocates, landscape and horticultural industry

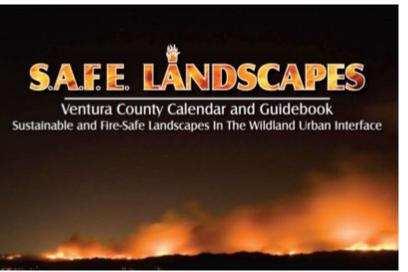
## SAFE Landscapes

#### **Products**

- New networks
- Calendars
- Guidebook
- Website
- Workshops
- Plant list reviews/revisions
- **Published articles**







## **Impacts**

- 49000 calendars distributed in WUI areas of LA/Ventura
- >1500 individual contacts
  - >80% of participants gained new knowledge
  - 81% avoided buying invasive plants
- Major orgs changed plant lists
  - Lowe's, Monrovia Nursery, LA Co.
     FD, NRCS

## Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Training for Public Works Agencies (PWA)

#### Goals:

- Decrease spread of AIS through public works operations
- Increase early detection of invasive species
  - "eyes in the stream"
- Increase application of BMP's including workflow, decontamination, and reporting
- Increase ability of PWAs to outreach to the public

## AIS for PWA

- Audience
  - Field based O and M staff
    - Personnel spending time in streams daily
  - NOT PWA biologists



## AIS for PWA

#### **Products**

- AIS training cards
- 181 PWA staff from 7 agencies trained in 4 counties in Southern California, working on ~4000 acres
- Developed hands-on demonstration activities



## AIS for PWAs

#### **Impacts**

- 99% gained useful information
- >80% about identification, impacts, reporting, decontamination
- >80% likely to recognize/report/decontaminate for AIS
- 2 agencies implementing new decontamination procedures
- 4 agencies extending information through signage, public interaction, permit review
- 3 agencies reported new occurrences of AIS



## California Naturalist

California Naturalist

#### Goal

 Increase understanding and stewardship of California ecosystems

 Build network of citizen sci observers

#### **Since 2012**

 12 programs, 436 certified naturalists (100+ more in progress)



## California Naturalist

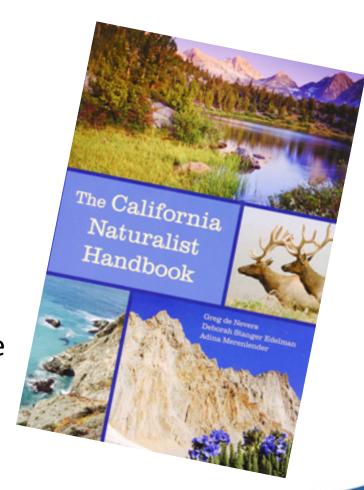
#### Audience

- Volunteer naturalists
  - Docents, restoration
     volunteers, committed
     citizen scientists
- Conservation corps
- JC students



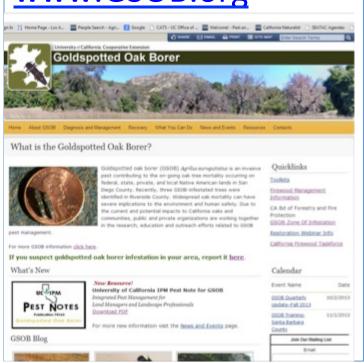
## California Naturalist

- Invasive species in chapters on water, plants, forest and rangeland, animals, env. issues
- To do:
  - specific curricula about invasion and invasive species planned
  - citizen monitoring tools for invasive species (pests)



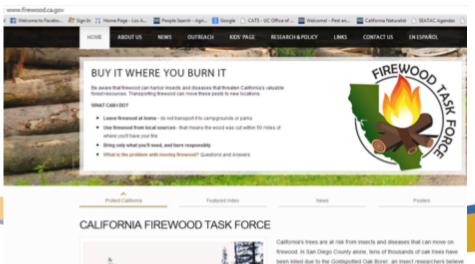
## UCCE pest programs

www.GSOB.org





#### California Firewood Task Force





## Lessons learned

- Think HAACP for people where are the points of introduction
- Get teams together
- Include members of the target audience
- Find entryway that is meaningful for them
- Find venues/media that work for them

