Tracking Invasive Plant Populations by Designating "Management Status" in Calflora

Cal-IPC worked with Calflora to add a new function to their online mapping database in support of regional partnerships working to eradicate particular invasive plant species at the landscape scale. For any given invasive plant population, you can now add an assessment record that designates that population as having one of the following values for "Management Status":

- **verified** *(meaning someone recently field-checked the Calflora record and verified it)*
- **searched for but not found** *(meaning someone recently field-checked the Calflora record and could not verify it)*
- **under management/treatment** *(meaning someone is actively treating the population)*
- **extirpated** *(meaning treatment was successful and the population is gone)*

This enables partners to inventory all populations of a particular species in the region, and to track treatment progress toward eradication. In the case of old observations that could not be verified in the field, you will be simply be setting "Management Status" to "search for but not found" once. But for populations that are under active treatment, you will return and add new assessment records on a regular basis to track treatment of the population. You will not be changing the "Management Status" (until you consider the population extirpated), but rather adding new assessments of under management plus a notes to show the work you did each year.

How to view populations and set Management Status in Calflora

1. ***Log in to Calflora.*** If you do not yet have a user account, you will need to create one in order to add any information to the database.

2. ***Set up Observation Hotline.*** This Calflora viewer can be set up to show data you want to see.
   a. ***Go to Observation Hotline.*** There are several ways to do this, depending on what you want to see.
      i. ***One county, one species.*** Go to Observation Hotline at www.calflora.org/entry/observ.html (or by selecting "Observation Hotline" from the left navigation column on the Calflora homepage). Follow instructions below in part 2b.
      ii. ***Full region, full species list.*** Start from the CalWeedMapper "Regions" page at http://calweedmapper.cal-ipc.org/regions/. Click on your region on the map, and a box pops up with information on your regional effort. Click on the link for "surveillance and eradication species." This brings data for these species (in your region) up on Observation Hotline.
   b. ***Adjust data selection.*** You can change what species or region is shown.
      i. ***Selecting species.*** Type in either Scientific Name or Common Name and the database will provide options. You can select "Cal-IPC listed" under "Plant Status" to limit the options to just Cal-IPC-listed plants.
      ii. ***Selecting region.*** There are multiple ways for doing this. To select a single county: go to "Tools" at the top, select "Advanced Form" from the drop-down

menu, then use the new drop-down for "County" to select a county. To select a wider area, select the "in map area" button, which will cause the search to bring back data for the entire extent of the map visible on your screen (you can zoom in or out to get the desired area). Or you can use the "Draw a Polygon" option to define a custom area.

iii. ***Review settings.*** There are other search filters on Observation Hotline that will affect what data you see. For instance, one can filter by date, which may or may not aid in seeing the records you want to see.

iv. ***Get data.*** Click "Search" to bring up all records for populations of the selected species in the defined area. You need to do this whenever you have adjusted search criteria (e.g. species, region, etc.) – the map and table will not update until you do so.

c. ***Adjust table.*** At bottom left, you may select the set of "Columns" you would like to view in the table. The "Weed Data Export" column set is set up for our purposes. This display option shows the important "Management Status" field as one of the columns. (This table of data can be exported by copying and pasting into a spreadsheet.) *Note: You can also further customize your column set to add other fields by clicking customize and choosing which fields you want to put where.*

3. ***Select population to track.***

   a. ***Select population.*** Click on the population marker on the map. A box will pop up with information on that record; you can get additional information by clicking on "*Edit*" in the pop-up box. In some cases there may be multiple observations of the same population and you will need to decide which record you want to use for tracking purposes; future assessments will be linked to this record.

4. ***Add a tracking record.*** This becomes part of the "history stack" for the original observation.

   a. ***Edit record.*** In the data table at the bottom of the screen, the record ID for the selected population is highlighted. Click on the record ID and a menu box pops up. Select "edit" which takes you to view that record in the Plant Observation Entry form.

   b. ***Add tracking record.*** Click on "New Record" and from the drop-down menu select "New Assessment of #xxxxx" (where xxxxx is the ID number of the currently selected population). You can choose to "*use the current shape again*" in which case you'll add the exact same shaped polygon to the stack or you can "*copy the current shape*" in which case you'll start with the same polygon shape and can edit it to show that the population has gotten smaller since the last time you visited/treated it.

   c. ***Select status.*** Basic information—your name and the date—will be filled in automatically. Go the field for "Management Status" and select the appropriate value.

   d. ***Add notes.*** Write brief notes in the Notes field (e.g. regarding your field check, latest treatment, etc.). Use the "Add a photo" option to upload photos.

   e. ***Finish record.*** When you are done adding information, click "Save."

More questions? Consult Help for POE: http://www.calflora.org/entry/help/poe-help.html
Consult Help for Observation Hotline: http://www.calflora.org/entry/help/observ-help.html