

## SLO WMA 7/21/22

- Land conservancy hiring field coordinators managing crews that do invasive species work. This is seasonal work, contact John Hall
- Cal IPC symposium in Concord
  - 10 million dollar budget for WMA's in California.
  - Intended to go into noxious weeds account. 60 percent WMA grants, 20 percent general, and 20 percent goes to CDFA to manage the program.
  - It is a good time to think about applying for grants/larger projects. Feel free to reach out to John via email with ideas.
- SLO Co Ag Dept updates
  - Mainini ranch follow up applications. Actively working with rancher to manage artichoke thistle. Additional 1-2 years of work likely needed for this project. Hurdles to overcome are existing large populations in surrounding landscape.
  - Chorro valley artichoke thistle could be a good idea for a future grant project.
  - Jubata applications in coastal areas. Access has been gained on private properties and applications are ongoing as access allows such as sea oaks mobile home park.
  - Identification of phragmites throughout the Salinas riverbed primarily in Atascadero and Templeton. All species are the non native australis species
  - WMA website is back up and running
  - Large population of artichoke thistle on chevron property in north Morro Bay. How to get access/support from chevron??
  - Open recruitment for full time technician position.
- New pest alert: Spotted lanternfly
  - Ailanthus (tree of heaven) is a preferred host of spotted lanternfly
  - Pest is from Asia, started appearing on east coast in 2014
  - Over 100 hosts, including fruit tree, ornamentals, grapes
  - Grapes as main host is of agricultural concern for SLO county. Feeds on leaves to the point where death of the vine occurs.
  - Very high cost associated with controlling this pest
  - Very good at hitchhiking and spread throughout Pennsylvania via railroad.
  - They lay eggs on a wide array of things allowing them to spread more readily.
  - Currently zero live findings in California.
  - Tree of heaven is contributing to the spread of spotted lanternfly because it is widespread and the insect has such a strong propensity for it.
  - Currently no trapping programs in California, but something to look out for.
  - Stopslf.org is a good resource for information on spotted lanternfly.
- South Central coast early detection rapid response:
  - Eradication targets
  - Canada thistle: Has not been found in many years. Previously found on Toro Creek Road.
  - Russian wheatgrass: Still exists in oceano in riparian context along Arroyo Grande Creek. The population is not allowed to be treated as it is along the bank of a creek as well as special concerns with red legged frog. Hard to hand remove and is overall ineffective.
  - Dalmatian Toadflax:

- European sea lavender: Occurs in morro bay estuary. Still 4 areas in the bay that have populations of sea lavender. Very low number of sea lavender found. Ongoing monitoring...Carpinteria salt marsh population: Tidal influence working on the project.
- Japanese Dodder: Lompoc site. Channel islands restoration working on the project. Tough spot to work on...Mixed in with poison oak. Annual check ups occur but grant has ended.
- Phragmites in Salinas river
  - Issue brought to surface by beaver brigade.
  - Samples sent to lab confirm phragmites australis
  - Trying to figure out funding or interest in taking on this project.
  - Mapping first step to understand how widespread the populations are.
  - Isolated patches in paso, some large ones in Templeton, and largest known populations in Atascadero.
  - Potential for involvement from Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD.
- Looking at next meeting in October