MARIN WATER

Take the long view: encouraging native revegetation after jubata grass (Cortaderia jubata) removal

Leah Lord, Marin Water

2024 Cal-IPC Symposium

October 24, 2024

Marin Water Watershed

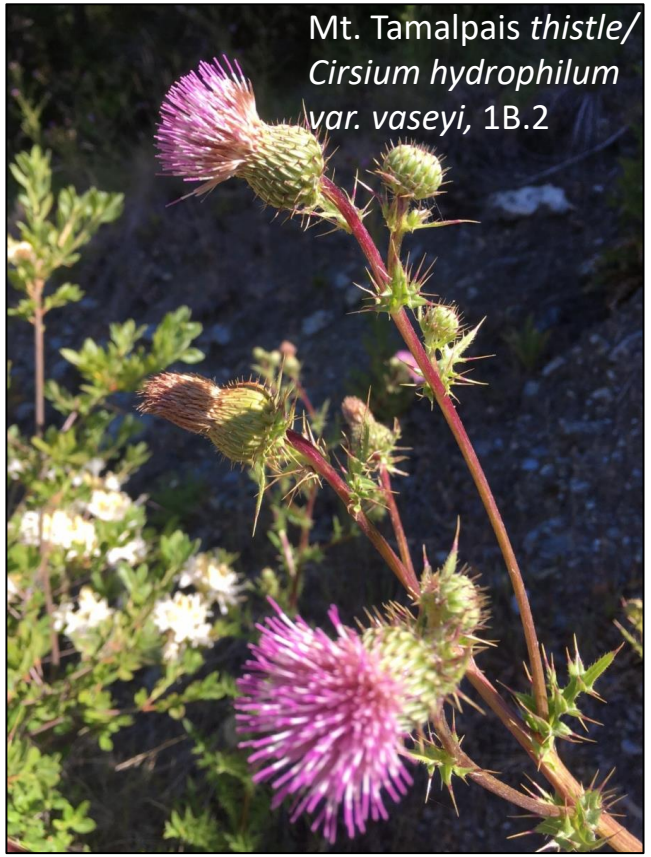
MARIN WATER

0 3.75 7.5 15 Miles

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

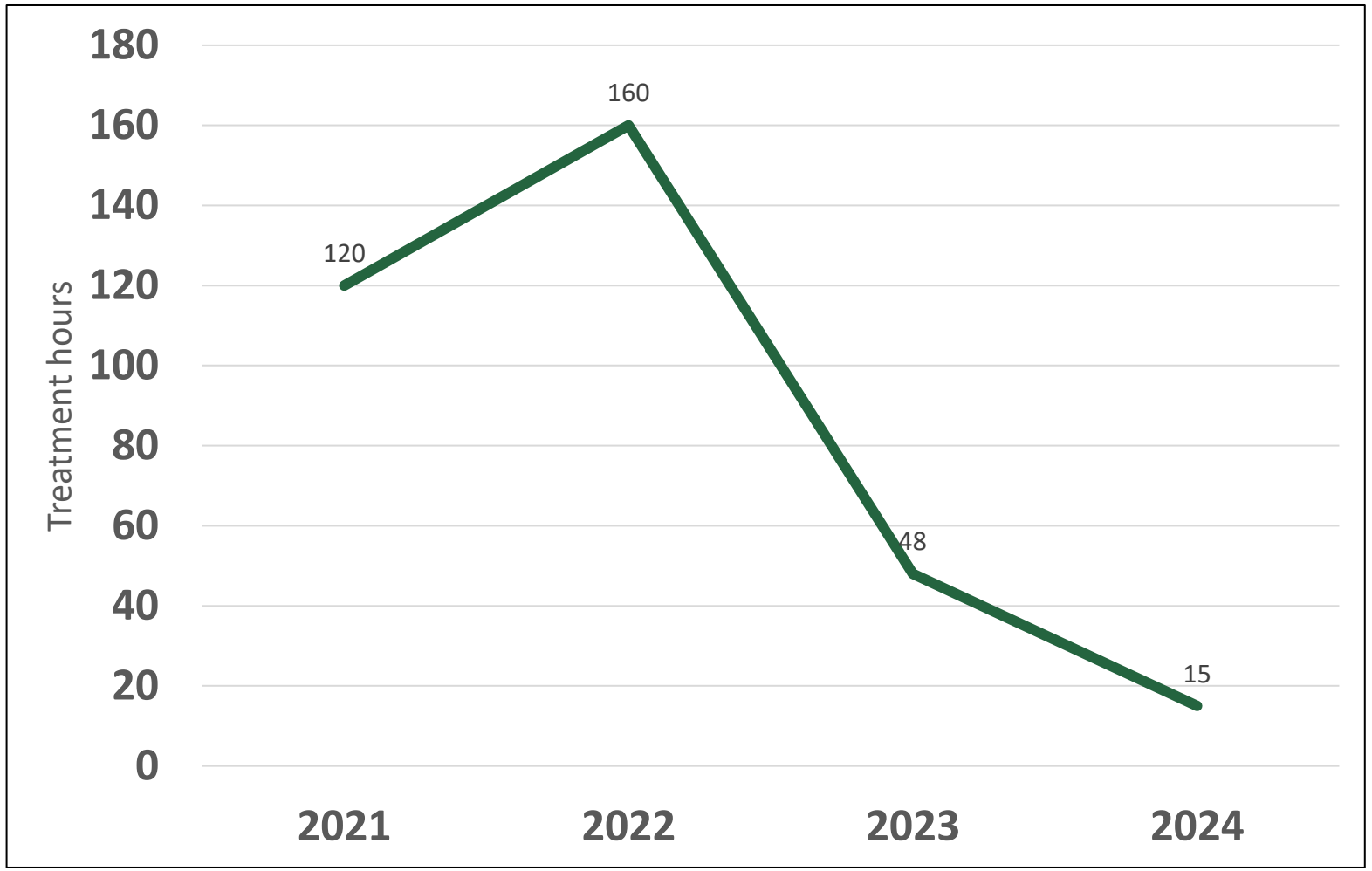
Jubata Grass Removal

- ½ acre patch
- Invaded seep/ecotone
- Endemic rare thistle!



Jubata Grass Removal

- Treated yearly starting in 2021
- Shrubby natives cut down to access site
- Jubata biomass left on site



Dramatic decrease in treatment effort over 4 years!

After Treatment

March 2023

Before/After Treatment

What's the Problem?

- Thick layer of biomass
- Lack of native regeneration
- Degraded ecosystem function
  - Loss of biodiversity
  - Lack of wildlife habitat
  - Slowed nutrient cycling

March 2023

Now what?

1. Seeding
2. Natural cages
3. Biomass manipulation

On-Site Seeding

toyon

seed site

huckleberry

Natural Cages to protect regeneration

Natural Cages to Protect Regeneration

Biomass Manipulation

- Rearrange leftover biomass to lessen mulching effect
- Restore natural microtopography
- Does it work? Not sure!

August 2024

Lessons Learned

- Consider what the site will be after treatment
- What changes to your treatment can help ensure better outcomes for the native plant community?
- What happens after the invasion?

May 2023

Invasive plant management isn’t just about killing weeds!

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Acknowledgements

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Learn more about the Mt. Tam Watershed at marinwater.org/AboutMtTam

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