

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Pre-Proposal

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Project Name:	Managing Invasives from Horticulture on the Mendocino Coast		
Organization:	Mendocino County Department of Agriculture		
Organization Type:	State or local government		
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Organization's Internet Address:	http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/agriculture/		
Total Funds Requested from the Foundation:	\$ 50,000	Total Matching Funds:	\$ 285,226
Salaries and Benefits:	\$ 0	Matching Salaries and Benefits:	\$ 16,639
Equipment:	\$ 0	Matching Equipment:	\$ 0
Other:	\$ 50,000	Matching Other:	\$ 268,587
\$31,000.00- monetary incentives for gorse management \$7,000.00- contractual services for coordination of Gorse Containment Project		\$16,243-Meeting Time and Travel Costs \$90,003-Gorse management on State Parks \$1500- volunteer labor \$1080-gorse survey in State Forest	

<p>\$4,000.00- contractual services for coordination of demonstration project \$1,000.00- contractual services for development of long-term management plan for demonstration project \$3,500.00- contractual services for development of educational materials for prevention of introduction of invasive plants from horticulture \$500.00 - distribution of educational materials \$3,000.00- contractual services for development of long-term management plan for MCWMA</p>	<p>\$37,830- burning of gorse and gorse debris \$3600- contract labor for gorse removal on Caltrans right of way \$57250- in-kind contributions to gorse management from private landowners \$2000-waiver of dump fees \$120- meeting space rental \$11418-contract administration \$64182- monetary incentives for gorse management</p>	
Sources of Matching Funds		
Name of Source(s)	Amount	Status
Mendocino Land Trust	\$ 744	Applied for
Mendocino County Agriculture Department	\$ 16,639	Received
Walt Decker	\$ 960	Applied for
Department of Fish and Game	\$ 1,058	Applied for
California Native Plant Society	\$ 272	Applied for
Mendocino RCD	\$ 816	Applied for
Caltrans	\$ 5,760	Received
California Department of Forestry and Fire	\$ 41,070	Applied for
California Department of Parks and Recreation	\$ 92,855	Applied for
Community volunteers	\$ 1,500	Received
		Applied

private landowners	\$ 57,250	for
Mendocino County Department of Transportation	\$ 2,000	Received
Caspar Community Center	\$ 120	Received
California Department of Food and Agriculture	\$ 64,182	Applied for

PROJECT SUMMARY

Summary:	Mendocino Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area partners implement a long-term management plan emphasizing prevention, education, and community-based efforts.
Project Site:	Mendocino and Sonoma Coast, California, on county, state and private lands. Federal property protected by the containment of gorse is the BLM Stornetta Ranch property.
Conservation Need:	<p>The Mendocino Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area (WMA) is defined as the coastal area of Mendocino and Sonoma Counties between (but not including) the Russian and Eel River watersheds. The conservation needs addressed by this project are the management of invasive plants according to the community-based priorities establish during the prior PTI project in 2005-6.</p> <p>Coastal watersheds in the WMA have experienced 150 years of agriculture, timber harvesting, and rural and urban development, which has resulted in increased vehicle traffic, soil disturbance, and alteration of ecosystem processes. With the introduction of invasive non-native plants (weeds) and increased opportunities for seed dispersal, widespread infestations have occurred in these watersheds. Weeds present ecological and economic threats to these watersheds, and the wildlife, human and plant communities that rely on functional ecosystems. These impacts range from alteration of ecosystem processes (such as soil chemistry, nutrient cycles, hydrology, sediment deposition, erosion, and wildfire frequency), degradation or elimination of natural habitat and vegetation types, displacement of native plants and animals, support of non-native animals, fungi, or microbes, and alteration of gene pools through hybridization with native species. These impacts equate to economic losses for private and public lands such as degradation of forestry and fisheries resources, access, utility, recreation and aesthetics.</p> <p>The primary species targeted by this project is <i>Ulex europaea</i> (gorse), identified by the California Invasive Plant Council as a high-impact ecological threats, and listed as Noxious, Category B, under the California Agricultural</p>

Code. Gorse presents a serious wildfire hazard. It grows in dense, impenetrable thickets, produces waxy leaves with a high oil content, and often bears significant quantities of dry, dead woody material, all of which results in rapid fire spread and high flame lengths. Its long, vicious thorns can pierce firefighters' gloves and other protective gear and therefore prohibit firefighters' movement in the fire area, creating access hazards. Consequently, removal of gorse overgrowth in Caspar has long been identified by CDF Fire personnel as a high priority. The Mendocino County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) created in 2005 as a joint effort of the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, CDF, local fire districts, and county residents, describes the need for gorse removal in the Caspar area. Caspar is named in the federal "Communities-at-Risk List" as being at risk of damage from wildfire and bears the highest hazard ranking, a "3". The areas of gorse proliferation are surrounded with other highly flammable vegetation, including stressed and dying trees. All of these factors make containment of the gorse infestation and reduction of the gorse fuel load imperative.

In addition, a demonstration project, initiated under the prior PTI grant, on the management of *Cortaderia jubata* (jubata grass), *Cytisus scoparius* (Scotch broom), *Genista monspessulana* (French broom), and *Carpobrotus edulis* (iceplant) will be maintained and expanded.

The invasive plants targeted in this proposal were all introduced intentionally. Therefore, educational efforts will be expanded to reduce the likelihood of more intentional introductions of invasives through horticulture.

The project will be overseen by Mendocino Co. Department of Agriculture through the governance structure of the WMA. Agency partners in the WMA include the Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Calif. Dept. of Transportation, Calif. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection, and Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game, the Mendocino Co. Department of Agriculture and the Mendocino Resource Conservation District. Community organization partners are the Calif. Native Plant Society and the Mendocino Land Trust. The Anderson Valley Nursery is the sole commercial partner.

Objectives:

1. Containment of the gorse infestation in the Caspar community.
2. Reduction of the wildfire fuel load from gorse.
3. Reduction of the introduction of invasive species by encouraging the use of non-invasive plants and the removal of invasive plants in ornamental plantings.
4. Increase of community involvement in weed removal on public and private lands.

	5. Increase in the effectiveness of weed management resources through coordinated efforts following a long-term management plan.		
Activities	Project Output	Post Project Outcomes	
Complete Long-Term Management Plan	Long-Term management Plan, document of at least 20 pages	implementation of the long-term management plan and revision of the plan in an adaptive	
Weed Removal on Adopt-A-Highway Demonstration Site	Removal of 0.1 net acres of mature broom, follow-up treatment of 0.2 gross acres of broom seedlings, follow-up treatment of 0.25 gross acres for pampas grass and iceplant, maintenance of revegetation- weeding, replacement of unsuccessful transplants	Increased involvement of civic organizations in the maintenance of the demonstration project and the initiation of other Adopt-A-Highway weed removal programs.	
Conduct Educational Outreach to Nurseries, Landscapers and Property Owners	Development, printing and distribution of educational materials for North Coast Region	Reduction in introductions of invasive ornamental plants on the Mendocino Coast	
Gorse Containment Project	80 net acres of gorse treated and 100 acres of follow-up treatment	Containment of the gorse infestation, thereby preventing thousands of acres of new gorse infestations.	
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Methodology:	<p>Activity A. (Gorse Containment Project) By defining a "no-spread" line around the gorse population in Caspar, a control effort can be coordinated with land managers and owners to stop the spread onto uninfested residential and State Park property along the Mendocino Coast and into Jackson Demonstration State Forest. In addition, gorse within 100 feet of residences will be suppressed to reduce the risk from wildfire to life and property. The program will provide monetary incentives in the form of reimbursement at a rate estimated to be 50% of the most cost-effective treatment and fuel-load reduction option available. Landowners may choose to implement a more expensive treatment, but will only receive reimbursement based on the most cost-effective option. A long-term management plan for each landowner will be developed, as a requirement to qualify for the incentive.</p> <p>Activity B. (Weed Removal on Adopt-A-Highway Demonstration Site) Supervise volunteer efforts from CCC's and civic organizations in weed removal, follow-up revegetation of the Adopt-A-Highway site, consisting of 0.5 acres at the intersection of Highways 1 & 20 in Fort Bragg. Workdays will be scheduled with each organization individually. Work with local newspapers to get publicity</p>		

	<p>about the project. Document progress photographically and post to the MCWMA website.</p> <p>Activity C. (Conduct Educational Outreach to Nurseries, Landscapers and Property Owners) Hold online discussions with representatives of the WMAs for the North Coast Region concerning educational materials concerning invasive plants introduced through the horticultural industry. Clarify the message, determine the most cost-effective method to reach the target audience, develop, print and distribute materials.</p> <p>Activity D. (Complete Long-Term Management Plan) Hold four 2-hour meetings over an eight month period to analyze the data, develop and prioritize the objectives, and finalize the long-term management plan. Post to the MCWMA website.</p>
Organization Qualifications:	The Mendocino County Agriculture Department served as the fiscal receiver for the prior PTI grant to the Mendocino Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area and is an active partner in the WMA.
Region where your project will occur:	Pulling Together Initiative