

California Exotic Plant Management Team

The California Exotic Plant Management Team (CEPMT) expanded to five teams, serving 13 parks that range from a few feet above sea level at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, up to the Sierra Nevada parks. This year the CEPMT helped parks treat 53 species on 126 sites. As in previous years, services were expanded to parks through increasing field staff. From 2002 to 2006, the program has expanded from a 6-person team to a 25-person, multi-team program. A large part of the field presence is through a partnership with the Student Conservation Association, providing 18 of our 25 team members. Growth was made possible through grants, outreach and partnering with the US Forest Service and Sierra Club, and incentives for parks contributing resources to the CEPMT. The refinement of techniques, leveraging of efforts, and heightened field presence in 2006 has resulted in a 163% increase in annual-acres-treated since the inception of this program (49 net-infested acres were treated in 2002, and 129 acres in 2006).

One of the highlights of this season has been the intensive treatment of Scotch broom at Point Reyes National Seashore. Comprehensive planning, supplemental fuels management funds, assistance from a Public Land Corp-funded CEPMT, and partnership support from Marin County Public Works resulted in significant progress towards the control of satellite infestations of Scotch broom within the park. A 563-acre inventory in coastal scrub and forest understory documented 58 acres of Scotch broom. Initial treatment of these acres has us poised to target the core of this prolific infestation with an interdisciplinary fire and resources management approach.



Removing Cape ivy at Point Reyes National Seashore (above) and CEPMT arriving at Devil's Postpile National Monument (below)

