Habitat Restoration and Rare Plant Conservation

During fiscal year 2007, the Point Reyes National Seashore Vegetation Team made significant contributions towards restoration and conservation goals at Point Reyes National Seashore and throughout the entire Pacific West Region.

Approximately two acres of European beachgrass follow-up were completed north and south of the mouth of Abbotts Lagoon as part of the dune restoration project. This project continues to work towards total restoration of 50 acres of critical dune habitat. As in FY05, male snowy plovers continue to use the restored area to rear the majority of fledged chicks. Tidestrom's lupine and beach layia, both Federally-endangered, continue natural recolonization in the restoration area.

All historic Cape-ivy removal sites were retreated numerous times by volunteers, NPS staff and MCC Americorps staff. Additional $9,000 in fee demonstration funding was secured from the Water Resources Division for follow-up at Lagunitas and Glenbrook sites in FY08-09.

Over 2,400 Pampas grass plants (about 4 net infested acres across hundreds of wilderness acres) were removed by an experienced volunteer, park staff, and the California Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT).

The CaEPMT staff also removed a blackwood acacia grove, contained a eucalyptus infestation, and treated scattered high-priority Scotch broom, French broom, mattress vine, and St. Johns' wort.

Over 600 volunteers contributed over 2,800 hours to habitat restoration and rare plant monitoring. In addition to the coastal dune, pampas, and Cape-ivy projects listed above, staff and volunteers removed nine high-priority species from about eight acres park-wide.

Sonoma alopecurus and Sonoma spineflower were monitored by SF Bay Area Network Inventory and Monitoring staff, Point Reyes staff and volunteers.

Additional funding was secured from USFWS to support work to improve site conditions for Sonoma alopecurus Population 5 at Abbotts Lagoon. Researchers from Washington University, Saint Louis, MO, continued research in coastal systems examining seed predation of Tidestrom's lupine, pollination differences between native and nonnative thistles, and overall vegetative response to coastal dune restoration. The fire management group contributed to rare plant conservation by completing management guidelines for the CNPS-listed endangered (1B) *Arctostaphylus virgata*. The range program assisted an NPS researcher with the reintroduction of the federally endangered showy indian clover (*Trifolium amoenum*) to Point Reyes. Spring monitoring showed several individuals had set seed and the USFWS recently awarded additional funds to continue the work.

Habitat Restoration volunteers