

Sample Project #2 Survey and Treatment of Noxious Weeds

Date: 2006 Field Season

Re: Task 2 - HWY 50 Yellow Starthistle 2006

Dear Client,

On May 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th 2006, Sierra Forest Communities Institute (FCO) under your direction surveyed and treated outbreaks of the noxious weed Yellow Starthistle along the North and South Sides of HWY 50. The following are the findings within the survey:

- A data dictionary was developed using points, lines, and polygon shapes for treated and non treated areas within the designated areas. Each shape file has an associated table file with specific information regarding the yellow starthistle occurrence level, applicators name, date, location, mile marker (if present), and additional comments as needed. All findings were recorded and mapped using Trimble GEO XT & GEO XH GPS units.
- For approximately 11.7 Miles beginning at Ice House Road and moving east, ending near the town of Kyburz, the South side of HWY 50 was treated from 25 feet off the highway down to the South Fork of the American River. The North side of HWY 50 was treated within a 25 to 100 foot strip off the highway.
- The majority of yellow star thistle occurrences was in the rosettes stage and had not yet bolted. In the rare cases that the plant had bolted it had not begun to flower. Four levels were recorded; Low (<25%), Moderate (25 – 50%), High (50 – 75%), and Hot Spot (>75%) ground cover areas. This information is provided in the table file within the GPS data.
- Contact was made with Cal Trans and El Dorado Forest Service during the project. Cal Trans plans on treating yellow starthistle within a 25 foot buffer of HWY 50 within the next month. El Dorado Forest Service will be treating public Forest Service Land within the next month as well.
- Treatment on the South Side of HWY 50 was concluded to have Low to Moderate levels of yellow starthistle. Levels on the North Side of HWY 50 were much higher with “Hot Spot” areas of 75% or greater ground cover in designated areas.
- The main areas of concern have been identified in the GPS data as treated “Hot Spot” areas. Although, treatment only occurred to a maximum of 100 feet off HWY 50. The noxious weed continued in many hot spot areas well past the 100 foot buffer area.
- The treatment area stayed between the town of Kyburz and Ice House Road, but surveying continued to higher elevations above the town of Kyburz. As of May 19th 2006 yellow starthistle rosettes have not begun to show, but after talking with community members yellow starthistle does exist and is recommended to be treated later in the summer months when the plant begins to grow in these higher elevation areas.
- If you have any questions or concerns please contact Ryan Willis at (530) 273-8326.