Riparian Noxious Weeds Identification & Control Methods

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Conservation science for a healthy planet.

NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Talk Outline

- Who: Introduce Point Blue/NRCS
- Why: Care about noxious weeds
- What: Key species ID & Control
- How: Conservation planning & assistance
- Wrap Up & Discussion

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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- Founded in 1965 as Point Reyes Bird Observatory
- 150 scientists and staff
- 2016 budget: ~14 million
- Advancing conservation of birds, other wildlife and ecosystems through science, partnerships, outreach

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

"Helping people help the land."

- Founded in 1930s following the Dust Bowl
- Originally called Soil Conservation Service
- Provides technical and financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, and private landowners
- Distributes Farm Bill dollars through conservation programs

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Rangeland Watershed Initiative

Founded in 2011 in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
Goal: work w/ landowners on ~1m rangeland acres for soil health, water, carbon, biodiversity & bottom lines

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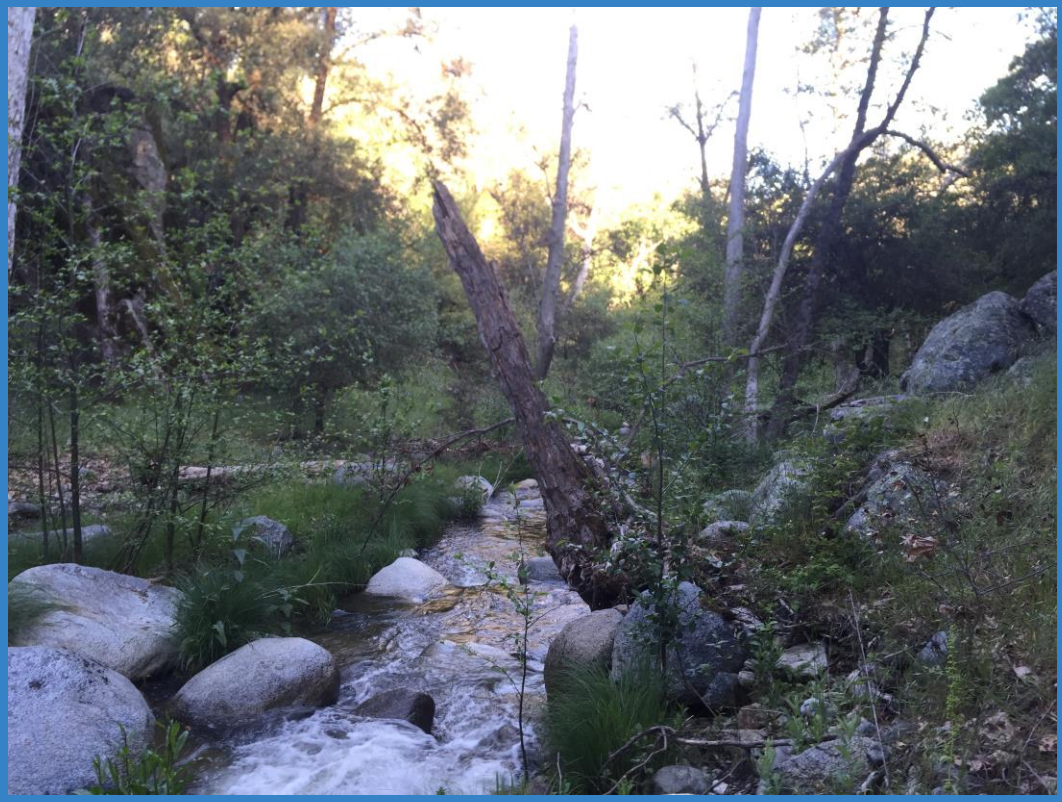
Ecosystem Services of Riparian Biodiversity

- Nutrient and sediment filtration
- Lowered water temperature
- Carbon sequestration
- Fish & Wildlife habitat –
  food, shelter, connectivity
- Groundwater recharge
- Hydrology and base flow
- Reducing downstream flooding



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Concerns for Southern Sierra Foothill Riparian Vegetation

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Cocklebur

Xanthium strumarium

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Cocklebur Identification

- 10-80 cm tall
- Bur seed
- Leaf up to 10 cm, sometimes 3-5 lobes
- Disturbed, sandy and seasonally wet soils, river bottoms

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Look Alikes

- Spiny Cocklebur

Xanthium spinosum

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Cocklebur Control Methods

- Hand pulling small populations before burs are set
- Mowing or disking will reduce cocklebur, but may resprout
- Foliar herbicide application – postermegence
- http://wric.ucdavis.edu/information/natural%20areas/wr_X/Xanthium_spinosum-strumarium.pdf

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Himalayan Blackberry

Rubus armeniacus

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Himalayan Blackberry Identification

- 1-3 m high in a mound
- Compound leaf in 5s
- White to pinkish blossom
- Dark fruit
- 5 angled viney stems with spines, rooting tips
- Disturbed areas, roadsites, streambanks

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Look Alikes

- Cutleaf or Evergreen Blackberry

Rubus laciniatus

Non-native

- California Blackberry

Rubus ursinus

Native!

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Himalayan Blackberry Control Methods

- Cut, pile, and burn
- Cut and paint stem with herbicide
- Foliar herbicide application to leaves
- Cut, pile, and excavate roots

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Common Fig

Ficus carica

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Common Fig Identification

- Up to 10 m tall
- Smooth, pale bark
- Deeply lobed, palmate leaf, 10-20 cm, hairy underneath
- Pear-shaped fruit 5-8 cm, green/yellow to purple/red
- Commonly found at spring sites, riparian zones, homesteads

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Fig Control Methods

- Pull seedlings using a weed wrench
- Hack and squirt, cut and paint.
- Stem injection
- Bark drizzle

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NRCS Herbaceous Weed Control (315) And Brush Management (314)

- Work with NRCS Soil Conservationist EQIP funding
- Conservation plan
- Address resource concerns
- Payment rates based on treatment types
- Other practices for restoration

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Thank you!

Regenerative Agriculture Foundation
Seeding the Evolution of Agriculture

NRCS
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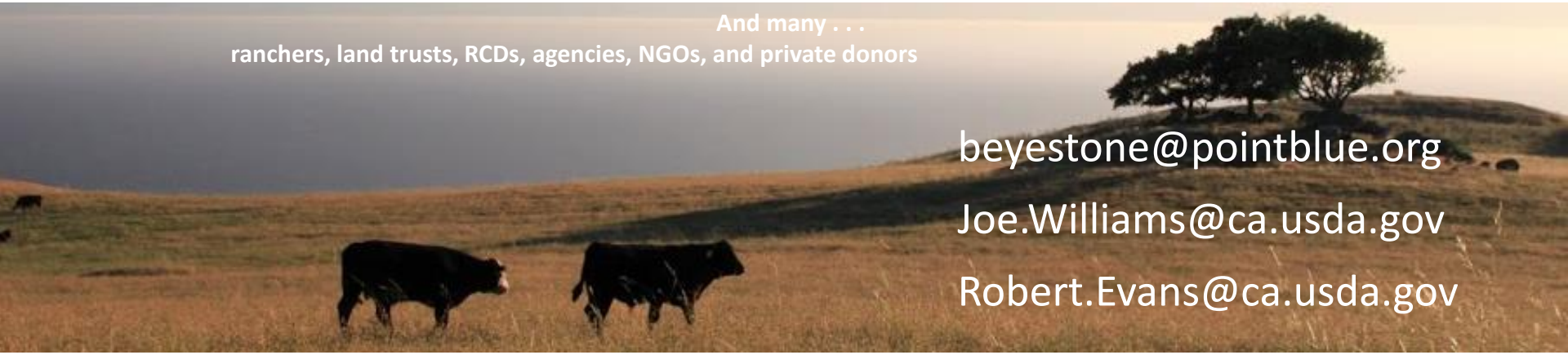

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