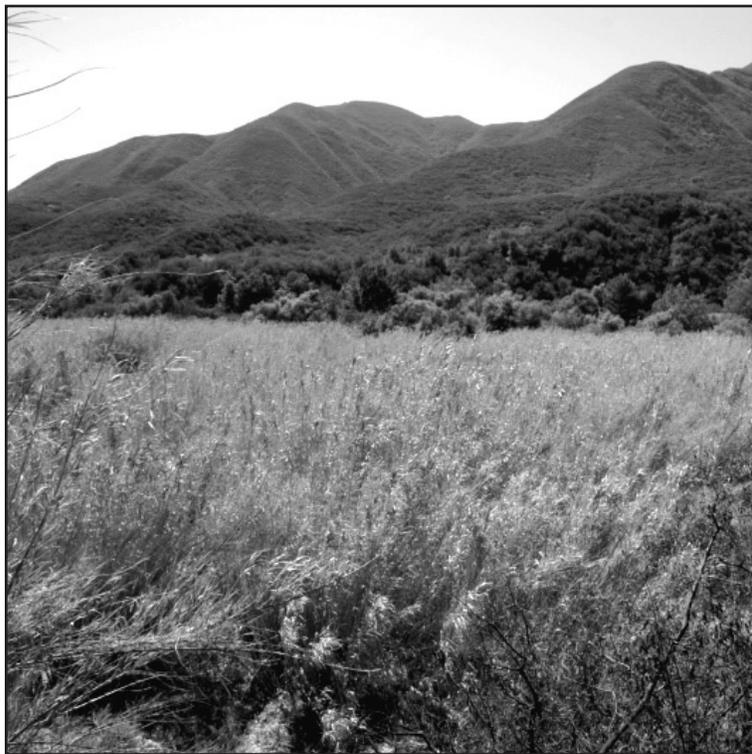


Have You Seen This Plant Disappear?



BEFORE: A monoculture of giant reed crowds out native wildlife and plant species in the upper Ventura River.



AFTER: Habitat areas in the upper Ventura River on their way to recovery after giant reed removal.

We're Improving The Ventura River Ecosystem!



WHAT: The Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) is implementing a giant reed (*Arundo donax*) control project on 1,274 acres, including Matilija Creek and a portion of the Ventura River. The project will also control other non-native species such as scotch broom, salt cedar (tamarisk), pepper trees, and castor bean. The project area extends from the Highway 150 bridge northward to 2,000 ft. upstream of the Matilija Creek falls. Giant reed treatment below the Highway 150 bridge will occur at a later date.

WHEN: July 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Community Meeting #2 - Please join us for a project update presentation and question & answer session at Chaparral School Auditorium, 414 E. Ojai Avenue in Ojai.

REMAINING SCHEDULE: Initial giant reed control treatments began in September 2007. To date, over 207 acres have been treated during this primary removal phase. A secondary phase that will treat any resprouting giant reed within the initial 207 acres is estimated to be completed by August 2008, when the project concludes. Additional maintenance retreatments will occur on an "as-needed" basis for approximately 5 years.

Removing giant reed will reduce fuel for wildfires, protect water supplies, decrease flood and erosion hazards, and improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat!

SUPPORT: This project is supported by:

California Coastal Conservancy ▪ City of Ventura ▪ Matilija Coalition ▪ Natural Resources Conservation Service ▪
Ojai Valley Land Conservancy ▪ Supervisor Steve Bennett ▪ Surfrider Foundation ▪
University of California Cooperative Extension ▪ Ventura County Resource Conservation District ▪
Ventura County Weed Management Area

METHODS: Three methods are being used to remove and control giant reed. Each has been chosen for its safety and efficacy. The selection of removal methods considered many variables, including time of year, access, location, severity of infestation, presence of native plants and wildlife, proximity to surface water, and regulatory constraints.

- **Shredding:** Bulky giant reed canes are mechanically pulverized to reduce fire fuel loads.
- **Foliar Spray:** Aquatically approved herbicide is carefully sprayed directly onto the foliage of the target plants.
- **Cut & Daub:** Plant material is cut with hand held equipment. Aquatically approved herbicide is then carefully painted or daubed onto cut stems.

WATER QUALITY: Water quality monitoring data for this project has been collected in the Ventura River and Matilija Creek since August 2007. It is currently being collected monthly by the VCWPD at 6 locations, and by the Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Ventura River Stream Team at 3 locations as part of their volunteer monitoring program. The water is being sampled for temperature, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen (DO), conductivity, stream flow, glyphosate, and non-ionic surfactants. The VCWPD is also conducting targeted water quality sampling above and below the work areas to ensure that no water quality impacts occur.

To date, neither glyphosate nor non-ionic surfactants have been detected in laboratory tests.

Thank you for your help and cooperation!

Your support has been valuable in making this important project a success!

**For more information contact: Matilija Giant Reed Removal Coordinator, 805-672-2100
or visit www.matilijadam.org**