GIANT REED (ARUNDO DONAX) ERADICATION

Estimated Project Cost:
$3 Million

DESCRIPTION:

- Intact riparian vegetation along the Russian River is increasingly invaded by non-native plant species
- Giant reed is one of the most serious impacts to remaining riparian habitat
- Clear understanding of the extent of the invasion by giant reed is critical for prioritizing control strategies and estimating costs associated with eradication and site restoration
- Conducted low-level aerial flights over main stem of the Russian River and major salmon-bearing tributaries, photographing riparian zone
- For the main stem, giant reed locations identified and acreages calculated, data developed into a watershed-wide GIS
- Total extent of giant reed in main stem is two hundred and thirty six acres, with majority (60%) occurring in the Alexander Valley
- Forty-three tributaries in watershed also identified as having Arundo infestations
- Mapped data indicates giant reed widespread in three elevational areas: active channel, banks and floodplain, thereby representing a serious threat to entire riparian corridor
- Experiments indicate tarping is most effective means of controlling and/or eliminating giant reed

PROJECT GOAL

Characterize the extent of giant reed in the Russian River riparian zone, evaluate effective control methods for giant reed, and evaluate its effects on a suite of biological features – including the riparian plant community, terrestrial and aquatic insects and other aquatic processes.

POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS:

- California Department of Fish and Game
- Circuit Rider Productions, Inc.
- Coastal Conservancy
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Sonoma State University
- University Of California

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Giant reed infestation

Tarping giant reed - an effective alternative to herbicide