

Early Detection News

March 2013

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
S.F. Bay Area Network
Inventory and Monitoring Program



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The Early Detection Team (EDT) surveys roads and trails in the Bay Area Network of National Parks. We detect, map, and remove new populations of invasive plants before they can spread.

Do you have early detections to report, or need more information? Contact the Early Detection Coordinator, Eric Wrubel, Eric.Wrubel@nps.gov (415) 289-1849.

The 2013 Field Season Begins!



ED intern Seth Gorelik is delighted to be removing rosy sandcrocus while Christine Davis maps in the background.

Welcome to the new members of the Early Detection Team!

Christine Davis returns for her second season as the Early Detection Technician at Point Reyes NS (PRNS). This year's EDT interns are Seth Gorelik, Christopher Myer and Teri Lim at Golden Gate NRA (GGNRA) and Sean Zweifler at Pinnacles NP.

March surveys were conducted in GGNRA at Crissy Field and the bluffs northwest of Fort Cronkhite and in PRNS at Limantour Spit.

Noteworthy Early Detections

[Rosy sandcrocus \(*Romulea rosea* ssp. *australis*\)](#)

We found a large population of rosy sandcrocus in the compacted soils around the Limantour Spit picnic area and nearby segments of the Muddy Hollow trail at PRNS.

Most of the year this South African bulb is



Rosy sandcrocus
(*Romulea rosea* ssp. *australis*).

indistinguishable from a grass. It is detectable for a short period in early spring when it blooms. Rangeland monitoring data from PRNS shows that this species has increased significantly in cover and distribution in grazed rangelands over the last 20 years.

Rosy sandcrocus is considered a [significant environmental weed](#) in parts of Australia



Red brome
(*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*).

Red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*)

Red brome was scattered in a few patches along the Bay Trail/Golden Gate Promenade next to the restored dunes at Crissy Field, and along the length of the fence between Mason Street and the Crissy Field Lagoon. The patches are small enough that it may be possible to eradicate this species from the dunes by hand-pulling. Other annual grasses such as ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*) and brome fescue (*Festuca bromoides*) are more abundant at Crissy Field.

The [California Invasive Plant Council \(Cal-IPC\)](#) classifies the potential impact of red brome on native ecosystems as high ([plant profile](#)).

Other early-season, early detections included [Oxalis pes-caprae](#), [Calendula arvensis](#) and [Sparaxis tricolor](#). Check out the survey results to see what we found and where we found it.

Survey Results

Google Earth™ maps are available to view mapped occurrences, assessment areas and survey routes. If you don't have Google Earth installed on your computer, you can download it for free [HERE](#), where you can also find links to tutorials and other resources.

Look in the Google Earth sidebar for a list of species mapped during the surveys.

Golden Gate NRA. March surveys were conducted at Crissy Field.
[GGNRA Surveys March 2013](#)

Point Reyes NS. March surveys were conducted at Limantour Spit.

What We Do

The Weed Watchers map, assess, and report occurrences of priority invasive plants along trails and roads in the San Francisco Bay Area network of National Parks, treating localized infestations when feasible.

The monthly data presented via the Google Earth KML files in this newsletter represent only new observations of patches of priority invasive plant species. A patch is defined as a group of individuals that is at least 20 meters from the next nearest group. Some patches may not be mapped in a given month if they have already been recorded in previous years, or if the patch is too large (see below).

Priority Species Lists (2013 updates coming soon)

[Golden Gate NRA 2012](#)

[Point Reyes NS 2012](#)

See the table below for more information about our priority invasive species and the data that we collect:

Our Priorities	Example	Explanation	Data Collected
List 1 (Highest Priority Plants)	 Fertile capeweed	List 1 plants are highly invasive and are typically not widespread. Control or even eradication is often feasible.	<i>Point occurrences*</i> and <i>polygon assessments**</i> are recorded for all patches, regardless of their size.
List 2 (High Priority Plants)	 Cape ivy	List 2 plants are highly invasive and usually more common than List 1 species, but are still feasible to control in many places.	<i>Point occurrences</i> are recorded for all patches regardless of their size, and <i>polygon assessments</i> are recorded for all patches smaller than 100 square meters.
List 3 (Medium Priority Plants)	 Sweet fennel	List 3 plants are usually widespread and difficult to control at the scale of the park. Uncommon species of concern are also listed here to improve our understanding of their distribution in the park.	<i>Point occurrences</i> are recorded for all patches smaller than 100 square meters.
List 4 (Lower Priority Plants)	 Rattlesnake grass	List 4 plants include all other exotic species that are not captured by Lists 1 – 3. Typically, these are ubiquitous invasive plants and are beyond control, or they are waifs.	These plants are not mapped. Skilled observers may record presence/absence.



*Point occurrences are individual points recorded to represent an entire patch of invasive plants

**Polygon assessments describe the size, shape and coverage of a patch