

CHANNEL ISLANDS RESTORATION

Volume 4, Issue 1

Summer 2006



CIR PROJECT AWARDED MAJOR GRANT FROM FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

By Julie Kummel and Ken Owen

The Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area, in partnership with Channel Islands Restoration has been awarded a \$103,700 grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for its Santa Cruz Island Native Plant Restoration Project.



Periwinkle (*Vinca major*) will be removed in several locations on Santa Cruz Island under the 2007/2008 grant program. CIR has perfected techniques to eradicate periwinkle, a notoriously tenacious plant.

CIR is thrilled to have funding for work we've long-recognized as critical:

-targeting nonnative plant species whose distribution is currently limited

-reducing or eliminating non-natives that directly threaten endangered species.

This funding will directly benefit the recovery of Hoffman's Rockcress (*Arabis hoffmannii*), Island Bedstraw (*Galium buxifolium*) and the Santa Cruz Island Lacepod

(*Thysanocarpus conchuliferus*).

At Pelican Bay, Garden Periwinkle (*Vinca major*) a notoriously difficult plant to

eradicate, is growing directly with the endangered Island Bedstraw on a steep slope on top of a cliff. CIR personnel will need to be tethered to a nearby tree for safety while they care-

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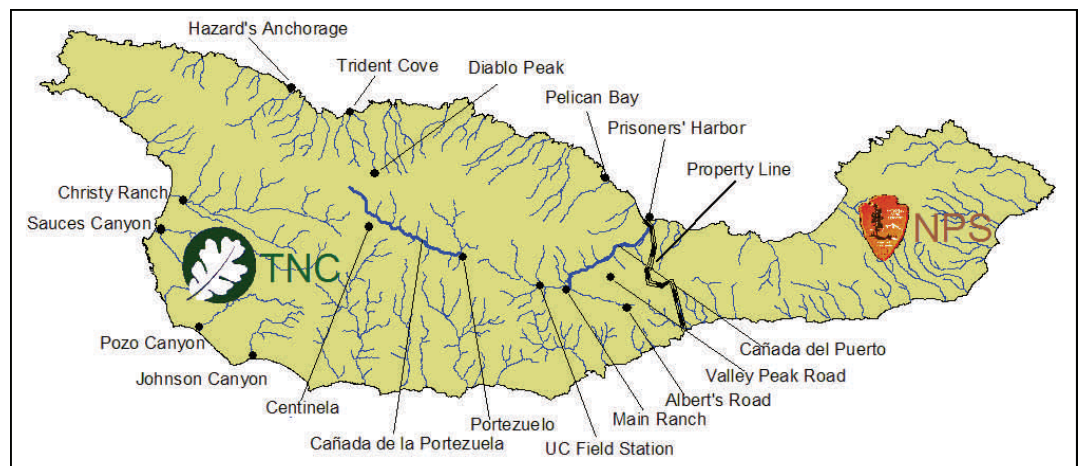
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Locations of invasive plants removal under the 2007/2008 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant program

CIR: A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION!

By Janet Heinritz-Canterbury

In April, Channel Islands Restoration (CIR) incorporated as a nonprofit organization, and formed a Board of Directors. Duke McPherson was elected as President and the Board hired Ken Owen as Executive Director.

Well known for their expertise and attention to detail in their restoration work on the islands, Duke and Ken have always worked as a private partnership.

With increasing community interest and attention to restoration on the islands and on the mainland, Duke, Ken, and other restoration activists formed Channel Islands Restoration as a nonprofit organization dedicated to community involvement, education, and collaboration of restoration efforts on the islands and on the mainland.

With Duke and Ken's years of experience, CIR is perfectly poised to grow and gain a reputation as a reliable and energetic provider of environmental restoration and educational services.

We hope that you will join us in accomplishing this exciting mission to preserve and restore California's native landscapes. ■



Channel Islands Restoration Mission Statement:

The protection, enhancement or restoration of native habitat

Public education concerning native habitat restoration and protection

Creating collaborative relationships within the environmental community.

Soliciting funds and volunteer support to further these purposes

Board of Directors

President:

Duke McPherson
Santa Barbara

Vice President:

Julie S. Kummel
Santa Barbara

Secretary:

Janet Heinritz-
Canterbury
Los Angeles

Treasurer:

Ken Owen
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Joel Fithian
Santa Barbara

Cindy Kimmick
Sylmar

Greg Wall
Laguna Hills

CIR: Not Just on the Islands

By Ken Owen

Most people are aware of the work that Channel Islands Restoration directs and carries out on Santa Cruz Island. Even though we have the word "islands" in our name, CIR has also has some important projects on the mainland. Many nonprofit and government agencies have contracted with CIR to restore habitat in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, and many more projects are being planned.



CIR working with the California Conservation Corps in Carpinteria Creek

CIR has had a long association with the Coal Oil Point Reserve near UCSB and with the Arroyo Hondo Preserve on the Gaviota Coast. We have removed Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) from the Santa Clara River in Santa Paula and Ventura and from a long section of Carpinteria Creek south of Santa Barbara. We have participated in many other small projects, removing non-native plants and planting of native species.

We are in talks with several other public and nonprofit organizations about some other very exciting restoration projects. There is a great need to preserve and restore California's natural landscapes, and CIR is increasingly being called on to participate. As you can imagine, your support is needed to help us preserve the beauty and biodiversity of the wonderful wildlands where CIR has the privilege to work. ■

CIR'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

BY KEN OWEN

Anyone who has joined us on a restoration trip to the Channel Islands will know that we emphasize education while we work to restore the environment.

We take extra time to point out native and endemic plants and animals, and we discuss many other interesting aspects of the natural and cultural history of the islands.

Volunteers are also treated to a comprehensive slideshow, highlighting these and many other topics. A major part of CIR's mission is "public education concerning the value of native habitat restoration and protection."

We believe it is vital that people appreciate the value of California's natural landscape if we hope to preserve it. Habitat restoration projects are most often publicly funded, and this



CIR makes public presentations to various community groups about our habitat restoration project and the need to protect the Channel Islands from the introduction of non-native plants.

is one reason we work to raise public awareness about the importance of restoring and preserving natural areas.

We accomplish this mission through field trips, public presentations, literature design

and publication on the internet.

Our educational program has reached visitors and staff of the Channel Islands National Park, and many educational institutions and youth groups. These have included Paso Robles and Happy Valley High Schools, Santa Monica Mountains National Park Youth, Ventura County Boys and Girls Club, among others.

Recently teens from that Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and Santa Barbara Botanic Garden joined us on an educational trip and learned about unique island plant communities.

If you agree that education is a key component to preserving the environment, then please contact CIR, and think about ways you can support and participate in our educational programs. ■

"A major part of CIR's mission is public education concerning the value of native habitat restoration and protection"

"We accomplish this mission through field trips, public presentations, literature design and publication on the internet."



The TEEN group from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden recently joined CIR for an educational fieldtrip to Santa Cruz Island

Visit CIR's website for more information on all our programs:
www.ChannelIslandsRestoration.com

CIR Awarded Major Grant.
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fully remove the periwinkle without causing any damage to the bedstraw.

This grant is a large undertaking with many tasks. While CIR will stretch the funding to do as much as possible, we will also need to more community support, financial contributions, and volunteer help to make this project possible.

CIR has an excellent record of removing fast-spreading, non-native trees, such as *Eucalyptus* and *Acacia* species, and weedy herbaceous species in important watersheds like Cañada del Puerto. Our work and the work of our volunteers have greatly reduced the range of many of the invasive plants targeted in this grant. Previous grants from the Fish and Wildlife Service have supported this important work.

Other Funding News

CIR is pleased to announce other exciting funding news: \$4,500 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Pulling Together Initiative to control Kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) as part of the National Park Service's Prisoners' Harbor Wetland Restoration.

\$5,000 from the Center for Invasive Plant Management will continue to fund control of yellow-spine thistle (*Cirsium ochrocentrum*) and white horenettle (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*) through this year on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands. ■



Hats containing the Dudleya logo by artist Dawn Navarro Ericson

NEW! CIR Dudleya Logo Hats!

CIR is proud to announce the release of our logo ball caps! These fabulous hats feature the much admired Dudleya logo, custom designed for CIR by artist Dawn Navarro Ericson.

The hats are of high quality design and include an intricately stitched logo. They come in three colors (kaki, blue and green) and have an adjustable band with metal clasp.

These hats have been much anticipated, and we can now make them available for a donation of \$20. Please contact CIR at islands@rain.org or (805) 448-5726 to order a hat today!

For more information on the artist, visit Dawn's web site: www.mantapublications.com ■

**JOIN CIR IN OCTOBER FOR
"HABITAT RESTORATION ON SANTA CRUZ ISLAND"
An Evening of Gorgeous Slides Taken by Ken Owen**

Santa Barbara Audubon Society

Wednesday, October 25, 2006

7:30 pm until 9:00 pm

Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Refreshments provided

For more information, call (805) 448-5726

Sponsor An Evening of Gorgeous & Stunning Slides from the Islands!

CIR Presents Landscapes, Marine Mammals, Endemic Animals, Plants, Human History

We love talking to people about the Channel Islands and about our work

Call today and request a presentation of the CIR Slideshow

Contact CIR at islands@rain.org or (805) 448-5726.

How Can You Help?

By Ken Owen and Janet Heinritz-Canterbury

CIR is uniquely positioned for important accomplishments in restoration ***IF AND ONLY IF*** we have the resources to accompany our energy and expertise.

While we have some outside funding to support our work, that funding doesn't pay for many of the overhead costs that are required of a small nonprofit in California. Even more importantly, our current funding doesn't cover the cost of doing pro bono restoration or providing educational services that are so vital to our mission.

Since volunteers, like yourself, have always been the sparkplug in our restoration machinery, we are asking you to be a sparkplug in helping us raise \$5,000 in the next two months.

We hope you will show the same enthusiasm for contributing to CIR that you show in getting down and dirty to dig acres of periwinkle and push tons of tree parts through the chipper!

If you and the other volunteers each give \$25, we will make more than our \$5,000 goal.

So help us grow by making your contribution today!

"Since volunteers, like yourself, have always been the sparkplug in our restoration machinery, we are asking you to be a sparkplug in helping us raise \$5,000 in the next two months."

Please support habitat restoration on the Channel Islands and beyond with a generous contribution!

Make checks payable to:
Channel Islands Restoration
 P.O. Box 91414
 Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Call CIR at
 (805) 448-5726
 to learn more about our habitat restoration and educational programs

SANTA ROSA ISLAND RESTORATION TRIP

By Julie Kummel

In June, CIR volunteers accompanied by CIR Executive Director *Ken Owen* surveyed for infestations of Yellowspine Thistle and Silver-leaved Horse Nettle on Santa Rosa Island. We worked with NPS biologist *Sarah Chaney*, and *David Chang* and *Tashina Simon* from the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner office. We formed a line and systematically walked in former pastureland to look for the plants.

Santa Rosa Island is the only location in Santa Barbara County where this thistle Grows, so it is a priority to remove it before

it spreads. The plants were marked with colored tape and the developing seed heads removed and bagged. Silver-leaved Horse Nettle was also located and removed in an adjacent field. We will check the area next year around this time to look for any new plants.

In addition to all the hard work, we were treated to a breathtaking hike in the Torrey Pine forest and an excursion to the east end of the Island. One of the highlights of the trip was meeting one of the last Vaqueros to work on the Island, who was visiting with his family. Other

treats included spotting a Gray whale near Bechers Bay and a large family of Elephant seals near East Point.

The winds blew ceaselessly the first two days, but calmed down for our last full day on the island. Many colorful natives were still in bloom, and we thoroughly enjoyed the stunning landscape of this lesser known sister island.

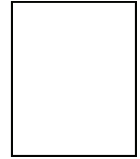
The following CIR volunteers were on the trip: *Joel Fithian*, *Greg Wall*, *Julie Kummel*, *Jim Roberts* and *Carolyn Green* ■



Volunteers receive instructions from NPS biologist, Sarah Chaney on Santa Rosa Island.

Channel Islands Restoration

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