

Ground Squirrel Control Program:

Trials:

- Raptor Perch
- Live Trapping versus Treated Bait
- Treatment Protocol Changes:
 - Second person in truck
 - Prebait with clean untreated rolled oats to show activity and better focus treatment area
 - Treatments from 3 to 2plus a third only where there is continued activity
 - Result = decrease of greater than 50% in the amount of bait used (2011: 35,915lbs; 2012: 29,323; 2013: 14,271)

Noxious Weed Program:

- 874 infested sites that comprise a total of 218,861 acres surveyed; eradicated successfully on 251 sites (29%)
- Pampas grass changed from imazapyr to glyphosate a more environmentally favorable material
- 5 of 18 weed species are removed solely by hand or mechanical means
- Japanese dodder: found and removed on 49 properties with eradication achieved on 46 (other 3 have been JD free for 2yrs)
- Discovered two new noxious weeds at very incipient levels. Woolly distaff thistle found apparently before its first seed set because we have not found any new seedlings since the removal in 2012. Japanese knotweed at two sites (Lafayette and El Sobrante) treated 1st year and extremely small amount needed treatment last year. No visible growth yet this year.
- Pest detection staff found new sites of both JD and red sesbania in the course of their primary duty of exotic insect trapping work.
- Have tracked red sesbania removal exactly by the number of plants removed over the last 8 years. Statistics indicate a very persistent seed longevity for this species. Last season was the first year that indicated a “break” in the seed bank with about a 45% decrease from the prior year.
- Successfully treated perennial pepperweed, artichoke thistle and purple starthistle that were endangering the only remnant site in our county of the extremely endangered Contra Costa Goldfields.

- We tried various alternative materials on perennial pepperweed, Russian knapweed and pampas grass and are currently trying Milestone® only instead of our standard Milestone®/Clarity® mix on Artichoke thistle and purple starthistle.