

**San Diego Association of Governments
Managing Rare and Native Plants, Restoring Social Trails, and Engaging the Public
Final Report**

**Cabrillo National Monument
National Park Service**

**Reporting Period: Jan to May 2021
SANDAG Contract Number: 5005506**

Work Performed this Period:

During the last quarter (January 1 to April 30) and final week of the project (through May 8), Cabrillo National Monument (CABR) purchased signage to prevent damage to restored areas and a compost dumpster to receive all the invasive plants that were removed.

Due to limitations with a quarterly payment schedule, the park decided to alter the budget allocations away from labor. We used park staff time and time from partners including the California Conservation Crew, our sister park, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, our volunteer program Weed Warriors, and others throughout the project. We used the motorized wheelbarrow to rehabilitate 0.13 mi of the Coastal Trail, with help of the California Conservation Crew. Post and rope was replaced by park staff along the entire Coastal Trail using supplies purchased with the grant.

CABR accomplished the following tasks during our last quarter from January 1 to April 30, 2021. The work is organized under the overall expected results/tasks from the grant application:

Overall Results

1. 4 acres weeded to < 20% invasive coverage
 - a. Finish weeding 4 acres and re-vegetating an area that was cleared by one of our partner organizations. The re-vegetation was turned into an experiment to see if non-herbicidal methods could control weeds.
2. All social trails revegetated with native plants grown in local greenhouse.
 - a. Continue to water re-vegetated areas by hand due to the extremely dry winter season. Weed re-vegetated areas (lots of open areas that weeds will continue to pop up in).
3. Where applicable: fencing, rope, and signage will be placed to discourage off-trail use.
 - a. Signage was approved by the newly-established Sign Committee and ordered. Signs are being installed in high-priority areas first. Post and rope was replaced along the Coastal Trail since rope was broken in areas, creating social trails and trampling on sensitive vegetation.
4. Social media: 3 blog posts discussing management of rare plants and their threats will be posted on the existing Field Notes blog. This has been an ongoing and useful tool

for educating the public on natural resources in the park. We will use our popular Instagram account to promote blog posts.

- a. Intern is still working on blog posts.

Tasks

1. Signs and fencing: Replacement of vegetation management signs in the Coastal Area started in high priority areas.
2. Restoration preparation: Continue to maintain native plants in the local greenhouse.
3. Invasive plant removal: finished weeding of Coastal Trail and weed *Aphanisma blitoides* patches
4. Restoration: Continued to water re-vegetated areas due to a dry winter. Monitored *Aphanisma blitoides*. Due to the extremely dry winter (including the driest February in 120 years in an Diego), *A. blitoides* did not grow much. We did see some small plants, but they did not grow much before going dormant.
5. Training: No specific training activities were planned

Photos

Broken and worn post and rope before replacement (Photo Credit: P. Geisler)



Broken and worn post and rope before replacement (Photo Credit: P. Geisler)



Brand new post and rope after repair, keeping more visitors from leaving the trail. (Photo Credit: P. Geisler)



Fresh rope has been replaced along the entire Coastal Trail. (Photo Credit: P. Geisler)



Faded and unreadable Area Closed signs are overlooked by visitors and cannot be used by law enforcement to enforce rules or write tickets. Many signs were even more bleached than the ones pictured. (Photo Credit: L. Pandori)



New Area Closed signs were installed to protect sensitive vegetation in various areas along the Coastal Trail. The signs are also updated to match the Comprehensive Sign Plan (Photo Credit: M. Barker)



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