



# Invasive Species Removal in California

## National Water Replenishment and Enhancement Initiative

The Angeles National Forest provides critical resources for the approximately 13 million people who live within an hour’s drive of the forest. In 2009, the Station Fire damaged 252 square miles of forest, which allowed numerous invasive weed species to colonize upland in riparian ecosystems affected by the fire. In response to the fire’s devastation and associated ecological changes, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service staff partnered with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and local communities to develop a 5-year restoration plan for Big Tujunga Canyon, ultimately expanding this work to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. This restoration plan is now being implemented with critical support from Coca-Cola and other partners, including the California, Los Angeles, and San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps.

**Location:** Angeles National Forest, California

**Partnership Accomplishments:** Removed 211 acres of invasive species, 324 bags of trash, and 155 feet of graffiti and maintained 22.5 miles of trails (does not include 2016).

**Number of Projects:** Three (2013, 2015, and 2016)

**Project Accomplishments:**

- 2013: Removed 195 acres of invasive weeds and hosted volunteer event involving NFF and Coca-Cola employees.
- 2015: Engaged contractor and local youth corps to remove 16 acres of invasive weeds in riparian areas. Employed 20 San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps members to remove 324 bags of trash and 155 feet of graffiti and maintain 22.5 miles of trails.
- 2016: Removing 10 acres of invasive weeds.



*Conservation Corps members and contractors manually eradicating giant cane. (Courtesy National Forest Foundation)*

**Restoration Benefits:** Restored a significant number of acres of riparian vegetation.

**Additional Benefits:** Increased habitat for native plant and wildlife species.

**Coca-Cola Replenishment Value:** 298 million liters per year (does not include 2016).

**Total Funding:** \$1,820,950 (Funding Sources: Coca-Cola Foundation—\$700,000, National Forest Foundation—\$508,000, Forest Service—\$375,000, Coca-Cola—\$237,950)

**Implementation Partners:** National Forest Foundation, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, California Conservation Corps, Recon Environmental, San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden





*Left:  
Conservation  
Corps members  
carrying giant  
cane to mulcher.  
(Courtesy  
National Forest  
Foundation)*



*Left: After giant  
cane is removed  
from riparian  
areas, it is  
mechanically  
mulched. This  
is the end result  
(Courtesy  
National Forest  
Foundation)*

*Right: Riparian  
area after  
giant cane has  
been removed.  
(Courtesy  
National Forest  
Foundation)*

