

NATURE RESERVE OF ORANGE COUNTY

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Updated -- July 31, 2017

Irvine, California-- Between August 7 and August 18, the Nature Communities Coalition (NCC), in collaboration with OC Parks, Irvine Ranch Conservancy, and The Nature Conservancy will conduct an aerial weed survey during daylight hours using a small, low-flying helicopter to document and map the distribution of over 30 weed species located within selected inland parks and open space areas. The resulting information will provide details about the abundance and distribution of invasive weeds and help land managers evaluate the effectiveness of current weed monitoring practices, identify emerging weed problems, and strategically plan future weed management actions.

Notices describing the aerial weed survey will be posted at trailheads at participating parks and open space areas during the project period.

The aerial weed survey will be focused on mapping the distribution of artichoke thistle and a minimum of 30 other established and emerging invasive weeds which degrade natural habitat values important to wildlife and the park visitor experience. The survey will cover nearly 4,000 acres and involve the following land areas (also see attached map):

Aerial Survey Area	Ownership
City of Irvine Open Space Preserve North	City of Irvine
Irvine Ranch Open Space	OC Parks
Irvine Regional Park (minor)	OC Parks
Santiago Oaks Regional Park	OC Parks
Coal Canyon Ecological Reserve	California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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