

Bullards Workstation Native Plant Garden Tahoe National Forest

2010 Accomplishments

This project provides for development and implementation of a native plant garden on the Tahoe National Forest, California. A California native plant and butterfly garden is located in an area treated for weeds and this is part of a demonstration native plant restoration project for an area that was treated for weeds. This also provides for and improves habitat for butterflies and other pollinators. The Bullards Bar Workstation Vista Point area was selected as the location because it provides vista views, restroom facilities, water, nearby trail and picnic sites, and parking. The garden is visible from the parking area and the trail. In addition, an interpretive sign will be installed adjacent to the trailhead and parking area.

The garden area and area surrounding it were prescribed burned in 2010. Scotchbroom seedlings were treated in the garden area prior to the prescribed burn. Sprouting native shrubs and sprouting nonnative Scotchbroom and Himalayan blackberry plants, pieces of unburned wood, and trash were removed from the garden site and the soils were tilled using a rototiller. Plant fragments were removed after tilling and piled for burning. Native plant species were selected for the garden to provide nectar and host plants for butterflies. Groups of the same types of plants were planted together to make the plants easier for butterflies to see. After the plants were planted, mulch was spread them to help retain water and hold the soil in place. Refer to Figures 1 and 2. The native plants selected include: showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*), common aster (*Aster chilensis*), coyote mint (*Monardella odoratissima*), and foothill penstemon (*Penstemon heterophyllus*). Other native plants will be planted in the fall include: yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), purple milkweed (*Asclepias cordifolia*), and pearly everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*). Plants that already exist in the area and are expected to seed in include: spreading dogbane (*Apocynum androsaemifolium*) and wild iris (*Iris macrosiphon*). In addition, an interpretive sign is being developed for the site. We plan to install an interpretive sign to provide information about the importance of both pollinators and native plants.



Figure 1: Newly Planted Garden Plot



Figure 2: Preparing the Garden Plot

Year Awarded: 2010

Project completion: The majority of work was completed in 2010.

Report number: 1

Expenditures: \$25,000

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Tahoe National Forest Fire and Botany Programs



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