



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

R-19-115
August 13, 2019

AGENDA ITEM 2

AGENDA ITEM

Volunteer Program Partnership with Student Conservation Association

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION *den*

Receive a report on the summer 2019 Community Crew Program Fieldwork completed in partnership with the Student Conservation Association. No Committee action required.

SUMMARY

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) recently completed a five-week summer Community Crew work program in partnership with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District). This was the third annual partnership between SCA and the District, and fourth year overall working together on field projects. SCA provides local students from underserved communities with technological training and job-skills development while doing valuable work for the District. Additionally, students gain insight to careers in park and open space management fields.

DISCUSSION

SCA is a nationwide program that provides youth the opportunity to work in natural environments and promotes stewardship of natural areas. The District started working with the SCA in 2015 with a one-week trail and habitat restoration project and then expanded to enter into a formal agreement in support of the SCA Community Crews program beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 (R-17-19). Services provided over the years include Geographic Information System (GIS) field mapping of natural features and infrastructure, such as invasive non-native vegetation, bridges, trail signs, and similar infrastructure, as well as other trail and resource management projects.

Projects completed as part of the FY2019-20 Agreement include work supporting the District's Conservation Grazing Program; students mapped locations and percent coverage of coyote brush (Attachment 1). Even though coyote brush is a native plant, coyote brush encroachment is negatively affecting grazing tenants as well as grassland biodiversity.

FISCAL IMPACT

This informational report has no immediate fiscal impact.

BOARD COMMITTEE REVIEW

The Committee is reviewing this item for the first time.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice was provided as required by the Brown Act.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

This item is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

NEXT STEPS

Based on the success of the program, the General Manager may bring a multi-year contract with the SCA to the Board of Directors in spring 2020, for work beginning in FY2020-21. A longer-term contract will allow SCA to continue to recruit students from underserved communities who would be trained to work on projects identified by Natural Resources and GIS staff.

Attachment

1. Sample Map produced by the SCA

Responsible Department Head:

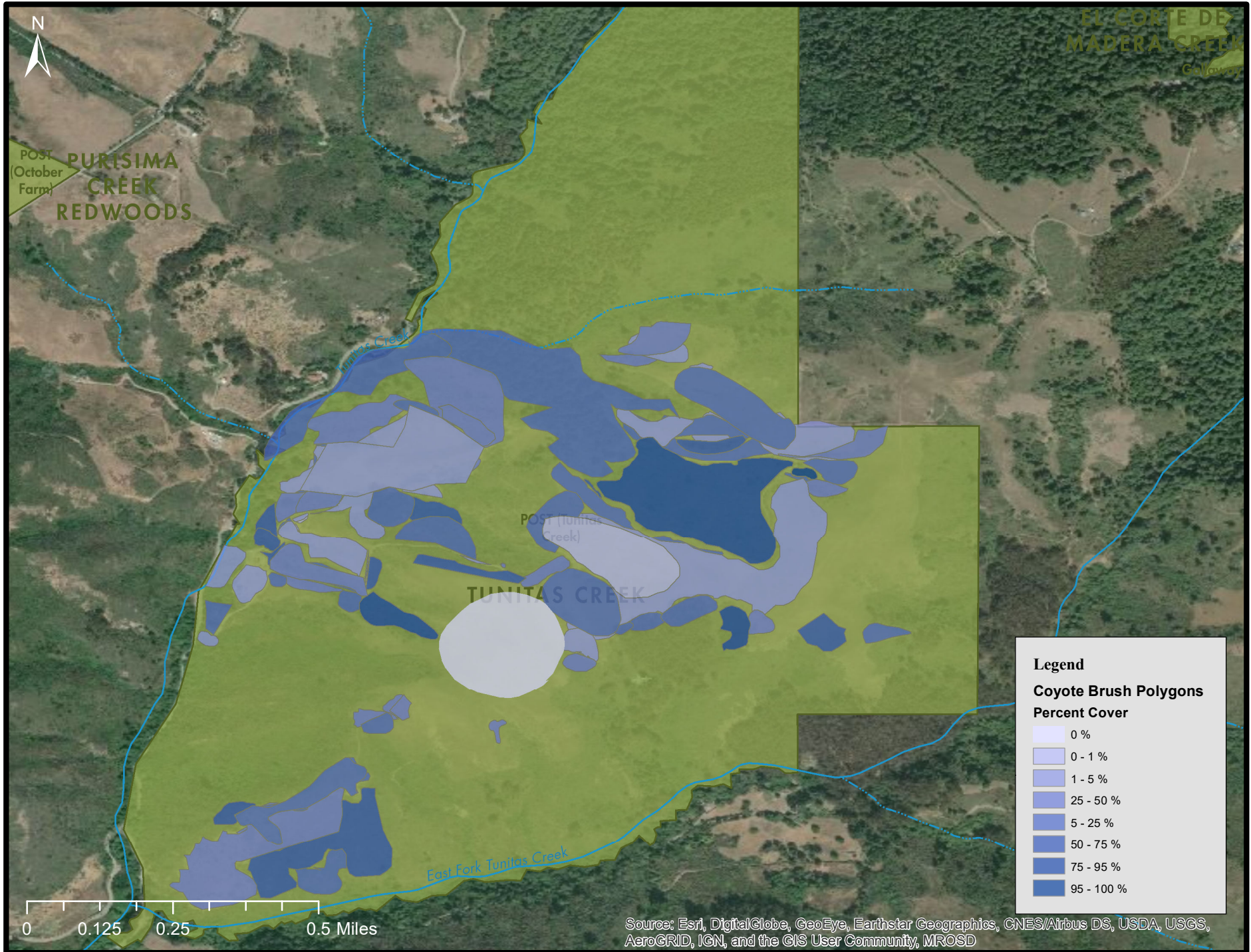
Matt Anderson, Visitor Services Manager/Chief Ranger

Prepared by:

Jennifer Williams, Volunteer Program Manager

SCA Brush Encroachment Mapping, Tunitas Creek

Attachment 1



Map Created by Elena Wolff
Using data collected by SCA using CalFlora
August 5, 2019