

Bull Thistle



Invasion of the Exotics

Over thousands of years, California's plants and animals, threatened by only natural predators and processes, developed effective methods of keeping their populations in balance. Today, however, wildlands are under attack by non-native or "exotic," plants and animals. In their native lands, predators keep these species under control. In California, with their natural predators left behind, these invading non-native species threaten the survival of our native plants and animals by feeding on them and by competing with them for space, food and water.

California State Parks is working to control non-native plants and animals and the damage they cause. Heavy equipment is used on our beaches to tear destructive European beach grass out by its roots. In some parks

volunteers spend long hours pulling non-native plants out of the ground by hand. If you see such work going on in our parks, be aware that these efforts will help California's native plants and animals to survive and thrive.

Yellow Star Thistle



Bullfrog



Periwinkle



Exotic Crayfish

