





Sticking to Native Roots

Photos//Nolan Fuss



Native Species

[ney-tiv spee-sheez, -seez] :

A native or indigenous plant species is a naturally occurring species that can be found in specific natural regions and landscapes. Native plants are valuable for a multitude of reasons and are highly effective when dealing with restoration or preservation of an ecosystem.



Invasive Species

[in-vey-siv spee-sheez, -seez] :

Invasive species create detrimental issues for ecological restoration because of their ability to overrun native species and ultimately disrupt the habitat.

“Invasive, non-native species are really what you need to target. These noxious, invasive weeds that really start to just completely transform and take over the landscape.”

- Darwin Richardson

NCOS Project Manager for CCBER







Invasive Plant Removal Techniques:

The removal of as many invasive plant species as possible is crucial to a restoration site's success. Using these techniques can aid in their removal.

- Pulling or burning
- Mulching: plastic or fabric, wood chips or hay
- Herbicides (use non residual to not affect site later)
- Shading, flooding, removing nutrients





Starting a Foundation:

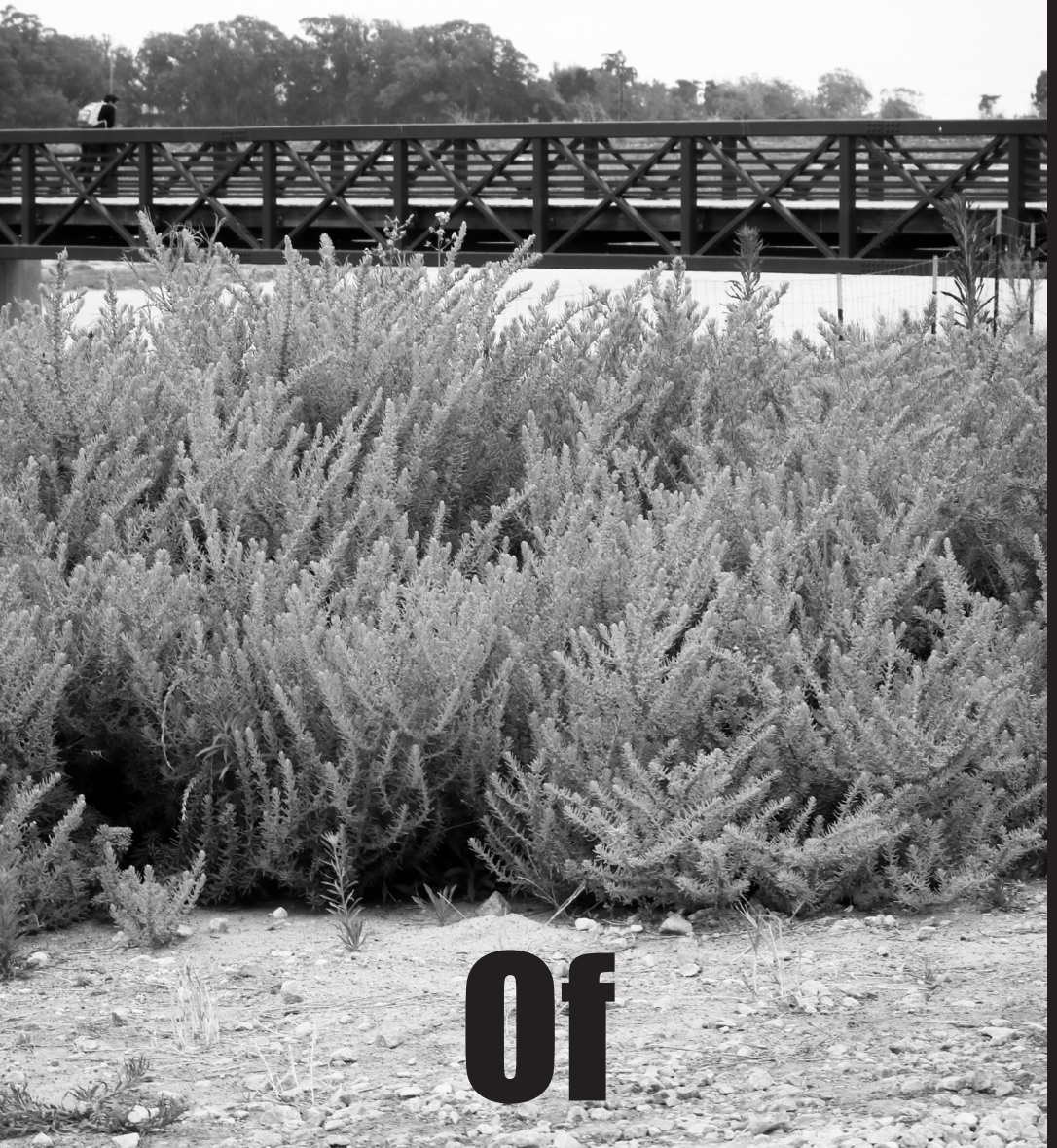
Native plant species are the foundation for every successful restoration project. Their ability to create the ideal habitat for native wildlife and ecosystem processes is the most important aspect for a project.

Identifying Appropriate Native Plants:

A site needs to be evaluated to determine what types of species will be effective when grown. Researching the climate, topography, watershed, soil quality, and identifying native seeds left in soils provides insight into species capable of benefitting the habitat.



Changing



Of

A black and white photograph of a chain-link fence. Several climbing plants with heart-shaped leaves and small flowers are growing over the fence. In the background, a beach with sand and some dunes is visible under a clear sky. The word "The" is printed in large, white, sans-serif font at the top, and "Landscape" is printed in the same font at the bottom.

The

Landscape





Benefits of Using Native Species:

Unlikely to be competitive with other species

Return/maintain normal fire intervals and fuel loadings

Provide food sources for native insects, birds, and other animals

Reduce the need for pesticides

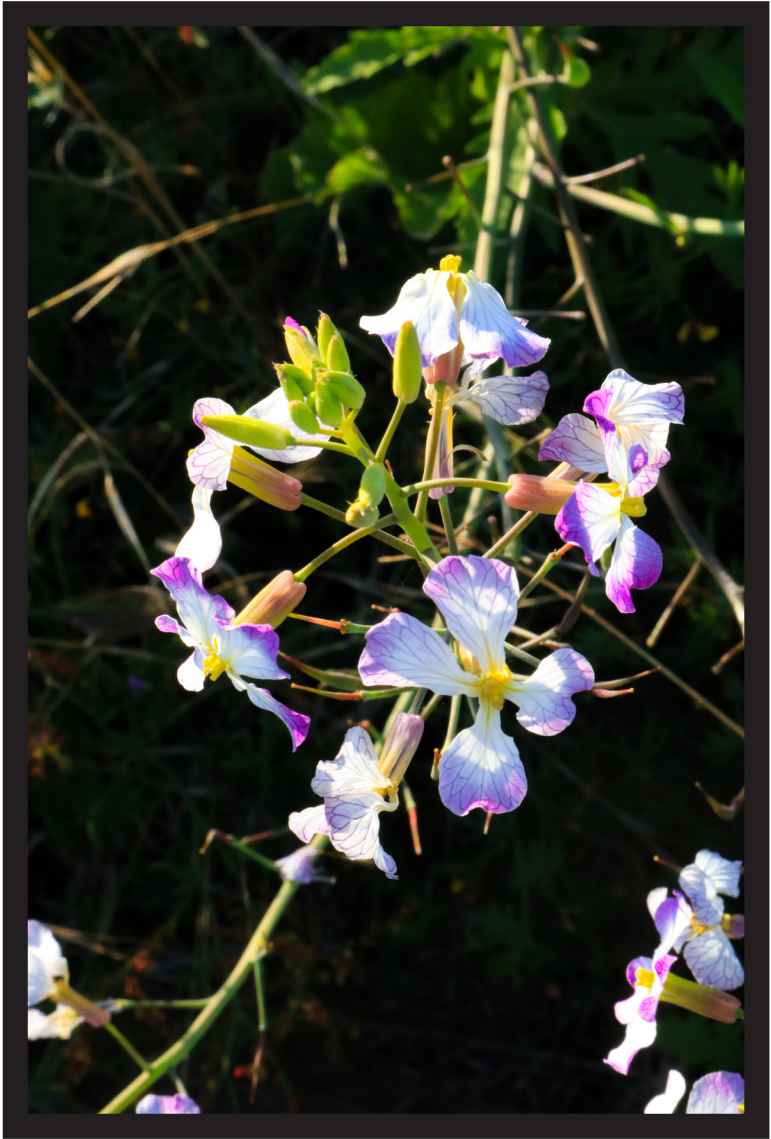
Provide protection for at-risk and native wildlife

Restore valuable ecosystem processes



Project in Bloom:

Planting the appropriate species correctly is a critical factor in allowing for young plant survivability. Planting the species in locations with access to water and nutrients is crucial. Plant in moderate weather conditions to allow the plant to acclimate to the environment. Ensure the width of the holes dug are large enough to accommodate the root system. Backfill the hole with soil, but do not bury the stem of the plant. Creating a berm around the perimeter of the plant will allow for the soil to hold water. Initially, it may be necessary to water the plants however, slowly reducing this will allow the plants to become self sustaining.



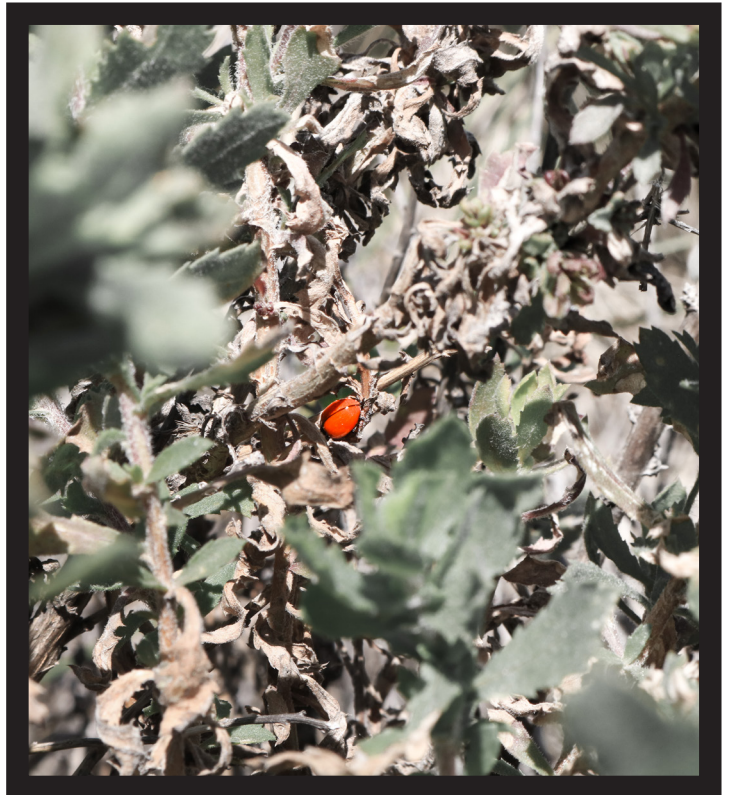


Taking a Role

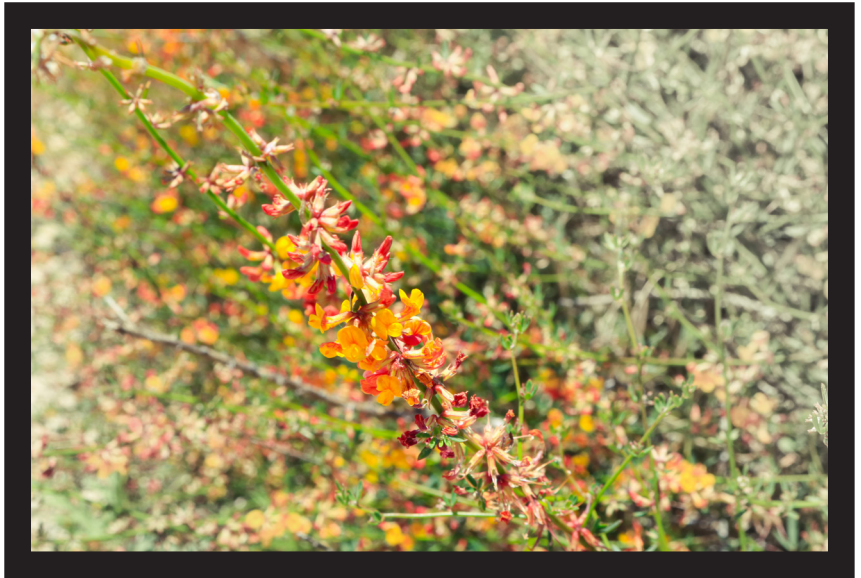
Volunteers are valuable assets for a restoration project. Not only can it create a connection within a community, but it also can provide the public with knowledge on the subject of restoration.

Get Involved!

- Look out for advertisements in local media
- Join a gardening club or organization
- Contact local environmental groups about volunteering
- Research local communities to find potential restoration projects and start your own







A Landscape Reborn

Successful restoration requires maintenance after planting the native species. Watering, controlling invasive species and pests, fertilizing, and data monitoring allow for the ecosystem to rebuild itself. Monitoring the percentage of plant species distributed throughout the site ensures that the ecosystem is being diversified and in turn successful. With proper management and efforts, a project can become a gorgeous natural environment for the community to appreciate.



