

This Position Statement draft is for indicating, at an early stage of the policy making process, what the nature of changes are being advocated by the Herbicide Sub-Committee of the CNPS Invasive Plant Committee (ad hoc committee). This draft will be subject to review and revision if this policy process request is green-lighted to proceed by the Chapter Council.

DRAFT CNPS POSITION STATEMENT – USE OF HERBICIDE IN SITUATIONS THAT MAY AFFECT NATIVE VEGETATION

It is CNPS' position that herbicide is an effective and sometimes essential tool to protect native plant biodiversity.

This position aligns with the CNPS mission to “*protect California’s native plants and their natural habitats, today and into the future, through science, education, stewardship, gardening, and advocacy*”.

CNPS recognizes that invasive plants are among the greatest threats to native plant biodiversity (CNPS 1996, IPBES 2023).

To maintain and enhance the health of California’s natural plant communities and biodiversity, CNPS promotes the principles and implementation of Integrated Weed Management (IWM) and other science-based technologies (CNPS 2008a).

CNPS recognizes that herbicide is one of multiple tools available in the management of weeds. In some instances, herbicide may be the most efficient and effective option and result in the least physical disturbance to a site. CNPS recommends safe and appropriate use of herbicide while providing maximum management results that are beneficial to native plant species (CNPS 2008b).

There is substantial regulatory infrastructure set up to ensure that herbicides are deemed safe before being legally registered for use, and to ensure they are applied safely once they are registered. CNPS is committed to following the laws and science behind all weed management tools and to minimize their impacts on humans, wildlife and native plants.

This CNPS position statement addresses invasive weed management in wildland areas or in other areas if there is a threat to the health and biodiversity of wildlands. This position statement does not address the management of weeds in other settings, such as landscaped parks, agricultural lands, roadsides, schools, or residential areas, unless they pose a threat to wildlands.

References Cited

CNPS (1996) Policy on Invasive Exotic Plants. Available at:

<https://www.cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/exotics.pdf>

CNPS (2008a) CNPS Policy – Wildland Invasive Plants, Integrated Weed Management. Available at:

https://www.cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/IWM_policy.pdf

CNPS (2008b) CNPS Policy – The Use of Herbicides in Situations where Native Vegetation May Be Affected. Available at: https://www.cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Herbicide_policy.pdf

IPBES (2023). Summary for Policymakers of the Thematic Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7430692>