

# Coastal Prairie Enhancement Feasibility Study



**Coastal prairie** is a diverse community of native perennial grasses and forbs that extends along the coastal zone from Central California to Oregon. This unassuming plant community supports the highest plant diversity of all North American grasslands. Ninety-nine percent of California's native grasslands have been lost since European settlement and, consequently, California native grasslands rank as the sixth most endangered ecosystem in North America and 90% of California's rare and endangered plant species now live in grassland ecosystems. Despite its biological and social value, coastal prairie is arguably one of the least well-known and least protected of California's plant communities. Grasslands provide important social and economic functions, such as water clarification, erosion control, carbon sequestration, food production, recreational opportunities and beautiful open vistas.

## **Goals of the Coastal Prairie Enhancement Study:**

- undertake habitat enhancement activities on 35 acres using treatment methods for different levels of velvet grass (*Holcus lanatus*) infestation;
- map and classify coastal prairie resources in Marin and Sonoma counties;
- prepare grassland educational materials;
- conduct tours and workshops and promote regional coordination;
- prepare initial recommendations for coastal prairie resource conservation in Sonoma and Marin counties

**Funding:**

California State Coastal Conservancy, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, UC Natural Reserve System, UC Davis Office of Research

**Partners:**

Ocean Song Farm and Wilderness Center, Sonoma State University, UC Davis Plant Sciences Department, UC Davis Center for Spatial Technology and Remote Sensing, California Native Plant Society, California Department of Fish and Game's Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program, UC Bodega Marine Reserve, California State Parks, Bodega Pastures, Sonoma Land Trust, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center,

**In Cooperation with:**

Audubon Canyon Ranch, Salmon Creek School, Point Reyes National Seashore, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Marin Resource Conservation District, California Native Grasslands Association, Marin Agricultural Land Trust, Marin Municipal Water Department, Marin County Open Space District