

***Ludwigia* Control in the Laguna de Santa Rosa, California** with glyphosate and triclopyr.

Thomas J. McNabb (1)*, Julian Meisler (2) Clean Lakes, Inc. (1) & Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation (2)

ABSTRACT: The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation (Foundation) spearheaded a three-year control effort aimed at reducing the area and density of the aquatic weed *Ludwigia* sp. within selected areas of the Laguna de Santa Rosa (Laguna) watershed in 2005. The infestation hampers efforts to control mosquito vectors of West Nile Virus (WNV) that pose a health threat to humans and wildlife; out-competes native wetland species; and is believed to impair both the water quality and the flood-control functions of the Laguna.

First year control efforts spanned July-October, 2005 and will resume mid-June 2006 and 2007. Control occurred at two sites comprising some 130 acres within the Laguna and included three principle elements: herbicide treatment, harvesting of biomass, and disposal of biomass. The three-year effort is the first step in a larger attempt to restore ecosystem process and function in the Laguna making it more resilient to invasion. While the Foundation does not expect that control efforts will remove 100% of *Ludwigia* from the Laguna, it does expect the control effort to reduce the *Ludwigia* population to a point where restoration of natural ecosystem processes and vegetation can maintain it as a minor rather than dominant component of the natural community. In this presentation we discuss the methods used to control *Ludwigia* in this challenging and complex wetland environment and present preliminary results of the control effort.