



OJAI VALLEY LAND
CONSERVANCY

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REWILD OUR RIVER

VENTURA RIVER WATERSHED RIPARIAN RESILIENCE PROGRAM



THE PROBLEM: WHAT'S ARUNDO AND WHY DO WE CARE?

This map shows the recorded cases of Arundo throughout the Ventura River Watershed. Arundo is an aggressive, highly invasive grass that resembles bamboo and can grow in dense stands up to 30 feet tall.

Arundo threatens our water supply, exacerbates flood hazards, disconnects important habitats, and creates a dangerous fire risk. It also grows prolifically, and requires precise, skilled techniques to effectively remove it. OVLC has always viewed Arundo as a threat and has worked for decades to remove it from our preserves.





free, restored watershed. OJALC has the experience, the permits, and the funds, but we can't solve this problem alone. We need a holistic plan, landowner participation, and community vision to completely remove this invasive weed and restore the waters we love.

Arundo removal is not new to our watershed. Removal projects have been successful and ongoing since 2007, with 270 acres of removal and restoration already complete.

HOW DOES ARUNDO AFFECT OUR WATERSHED?

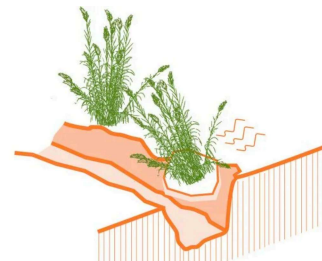
OUTCOMPETES NATIVE VEGETATION

Arundo forms dense stands that displace native vegetation. These monoculture stands provide less habitat and food for native wildlife, and outcompete native plants.



INCREASES EROSION

Arundo's root masses, known as rhizomes, are bulky and shallow-rooted. These large masses alter the path of water in our creeks. Also, as opposed to our deep-rooted native plants, the shallow roots are pulled from the stream banks during storms causing erosion and destabilizing surrounding land.





VIEWSHEDS & ACCESS

Arundo is an aggressive invasive grass that can grow in dense stands up to 30 feet tall. Its towering height obstructs views and dense stands cut off access to our creeks and waterways.

DEPLETES WATER SUPPLIES

Arundo consumes large amounts of surface and groundwater—four times as much as native riparian plants! Estimates are as high as 20 acre-feet per acre annually. Removing one acre of arundo can provide enough to supply water to 40 homes a year!

HAZARDS

Shallow-rooted Arundo dislodges and flows downstream during storms. Dense mats of vegetation can dam up and increase the risk and severity of flooding.

EXACERBATES FIRE RISK

While healthy riparian corridors typically function as natural fire breaks, Arundo’s tall, dense stands are extremely flammable, which dramatically worsen the spread of wildland fires. Stands of Arundo are also known to cause spotting and can throw embers up to a mile away.



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Click and drag the arrows to see the difference between an unhealthy river infested with arundo and a healthy river teaming with native vegetation.

ARUNDO INFESTED

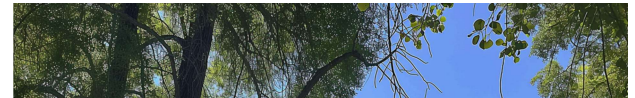
HEALTHY RIVER

Quality of life in the Ojai Valley is intertwined with the integrity of our river and creeks. Over the years, our community has endured some really, *really* extreme environmental disasters. In just the last decade, we've endured multi-year drought, historic flooding, and the Thomas Fire—the largest wildfire in California's history at the time. Our watershed has always been a dynamic system, and our natural environment has adapted to flex and flow with the cycles of environmental change, but invasive species like Arundo create a chronic stress that weakens our watershed's ability to function.

Healthy rivers are resilient to periodic droughts and floods, function as natural fuel breaks that protect our community from wildfire, and provide solace and shade for humans and wildlife alike during hot Ojai summers. Where climate change can feel a bit existential, river restoration is tangible, and an arundo-free watershed is achievable.



OUR METHODS: HOW DOES OVLC REMOVE ARUNDO?



BEFORE

DURING

AFTER

We are building upon decades of work in the upper watershed, applying **precise** and **effective** techniques, and working in partnership with landowners. We are also working with the Ventura County Resource Conservation District and a wide range of government agencies, non-profit organizations, and community members dedicated to community resilience.

While every project is unique, we have committed to using the most precise, effective, and accepted methods for Arundo treatment. We use the cut-and-daub method with an aquatic-safe formula of glyphosate to treat and remove Arundo. This involves cutting live Arundo with hand tools and a licensed applicator precisely daubing (or painting) the herbicide on the freshly cut stalk within two minutes of the stalk being cut. Cut stalks are then removed from the area and broken down into mulch. Because this work occurs in sensitive areas, everything is overseen by a biological monitor. This is a coordinated effort that balances highly technical, surgical application with labor-intensive, manual removal.

You can read more about past arundo projects and the methods used [here](#).

Once removal is complete, the process of restoration can begin. Planting native species can strengthen bank integrity, create habitat for native critters, and return our rivers and creeks to their natural state.



FAQS

WHAT IS ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION?

WHY IS OVLC TRYING TO REMOVE ARUNDO FROM THE WATERSHED?

HOW DOES OVLC REMOVE ARUNDO?

CAN YOU USE ANY OTHER METHODS TO REMOVE ARUNDO?

IS THERE ANY RISK TO MY HEALTH OR LAND FROM OVLC'S HERBICIDE USE?

DID THE FLOODS GET RID OF THE ARUNDO?

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

WHERE DO YOU FIT IN
THE ARUNDO IS REMOVED. WHAT NOW?



I have arundo on my property



I want to help remove arundo



My neighbors have arundo



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CONTACT

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Emergencies: Dial 911
 For non-emergencies,
 please call the Ventura
 County Sheriff:
 (805) 646-1414

OVLC Office/Physical Address

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 Ojai, CA 93023
** USPS does not deliver to the
 OVLC office*

Office Directions

CONNECT

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