



Current and Projected Status of Himalayan Blackberry Invasion at Fairfield Osborn Preserve

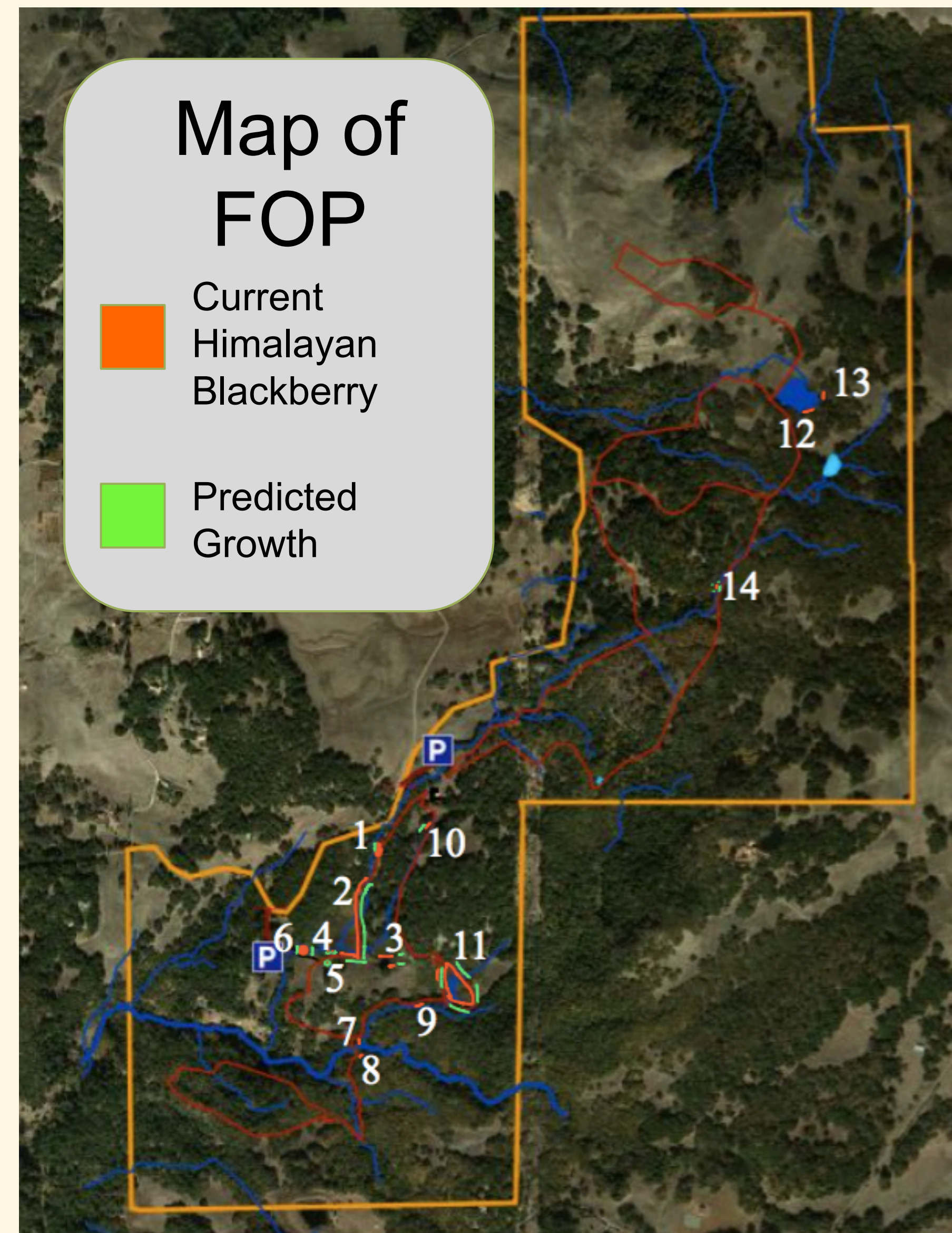
Sarah Chesbrough, Corbin Matley, Andrea Rossi
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Introduction: *Rubus Armeniacus* (Himalayan Blackberry) originated from Iran and Armenia and was brought to the west coast of the U.S for its fruit, *Rubus Armeniacus* thrived in the moist environment of Sonoma County and it has become a significantly invasive species. We can predict the spread of Himalayan Blackberry with the known rate of 5 feet per two years. At Fairfield Osborn Preserve, *Rubus Armeniacus*, Himalayan Blackberry is now a well known invasive species present throughout the preserve.

Materials and Methods:

- *Surveying began at Education center and Kelly Pond then circled south
- *Surveying was done by visually scanning the trails
- *The sighted Blackberries were then inspected to determine the species
- *We took Densimeter readings of canopy cover at middle and any potential directions of the spread
- *We then measured dimensions of bush with transect tape.



Site 1	14x15	Site 8	24x12
Site 2	198	Site 9	N/A
Site 3	51	Site 10	47x56
Site 4	104	Site 11	148
Site 5	19x13	Site 12	27x26
Site 6	96x13	Site 13	45x12
Site 7	N/A	Site 14	26x21



Results:

- *We observed Himalayan Blackberries were located near water sources, such as Copeland Creek and Turtle Pond
- *Another correlation between sites was low canopy coverage, thus high sun exposure.

Discussion:

- *One preventative method would be planting fast growing trees or shrubs
- *Another control method would hand pulling the berries
- *Our most recommended control method is cutting, from summer to early winter.

Conclusion:

Himalayan Blackberries have been observed thriving in areas of high moisture and high sun exposure. Through research we can determine that the Himalayan Blackberries will spread approximately 5 feet every two years in the direction of ideal conditions.

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Sources:

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Astley, C. (2010). How does Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) impact breeding bird diversity? A case study of the lower mainland of British Columbia (Doctoral dissertation, Royal Roads University).