

San Nicolas Slope Restoration Monitoring

Annual Monitoring surveys of San Nicolas Slope began in 2007. There are six monitoring transects that span the length of the slope. Transects 1 through 4 are located on the upper portion of the slope, transect five is on the lower part of the slope alongside the road, and transect six, which was added in 2009, spans the area of the site that was covered in Kikuyu grass.

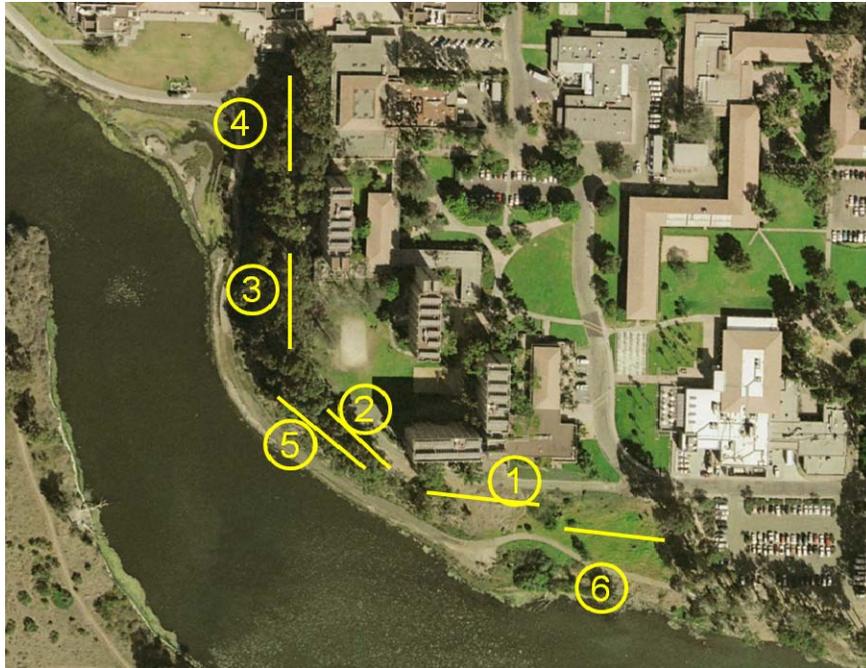


Figure 1: Transect locations on San Nicolas Slope.

Transects 1,2 ,3 , and 4 were planted in 2007 and 2008. Establishment in transects 3 and 4 was very low due to the effects of the Eucalyptus leaf litter from the overhanging canopy. Transect 2 had significantly higher establishment than transects 3 and 4 which is most likely because there was very little Eucalyptus overhanging this area. While transect one had no Eucalyptus cover, native establishment is still fairly low due to competition with abundant non-native weeds in such as radish and kikuyu grass.

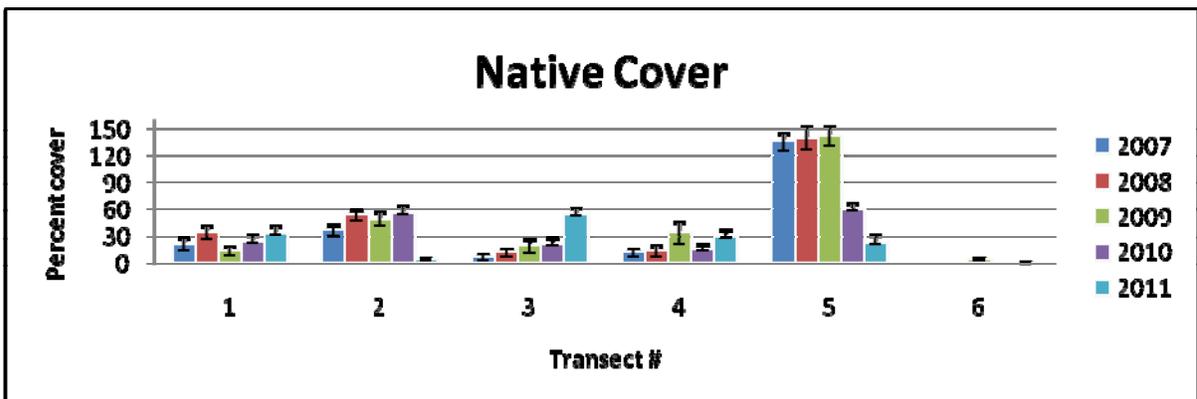


Chart 1: Percent native cover at San Nicolas Slope from 2007 to 2011.

Transect five has an extremely high native cover while non-natives are nearly absent. The vegetation in this transect was planted between 1995 and 1998; thus it is very well established. Furthermore, there is no Eucalyptus canopy above this transect so plant growth is not suppressed by the leaf litter.

Transect six was added in 2009 to gather baseline data for this area of the site. The 2009 data shows that transect six is completely covered in non-native Kikuyu grass, while in 2011 there large bare ground component reflects that the weeds have been cleared from the site.

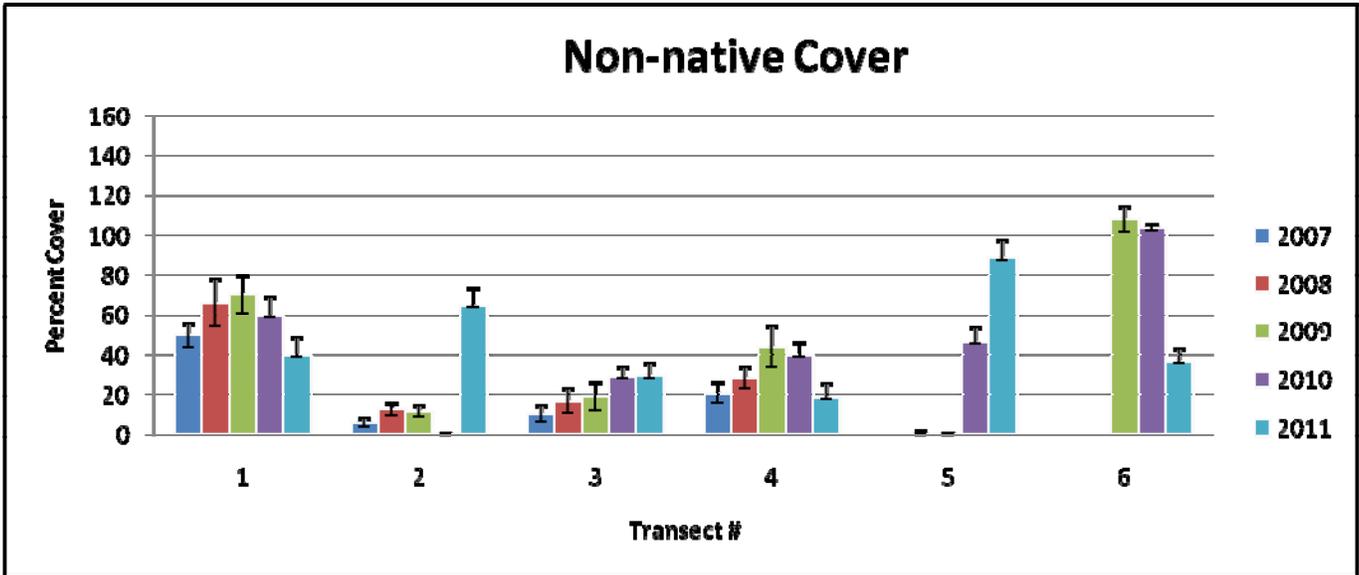


Chart 2: Percent non-native cover at San Nicolas Slope from 2007 to 2011.

Bare ground and thatch cover is very high in sites 2, 3, and 4 due to the abundant litter inputs from the overhanging Eucalyptus. Transect 1 has a lot of woody thatch in the form previous years dried radish stems and branches. Transect 6 was newly planted at the time of monitoring and has high bare ground cover and open water where the wetland was created.

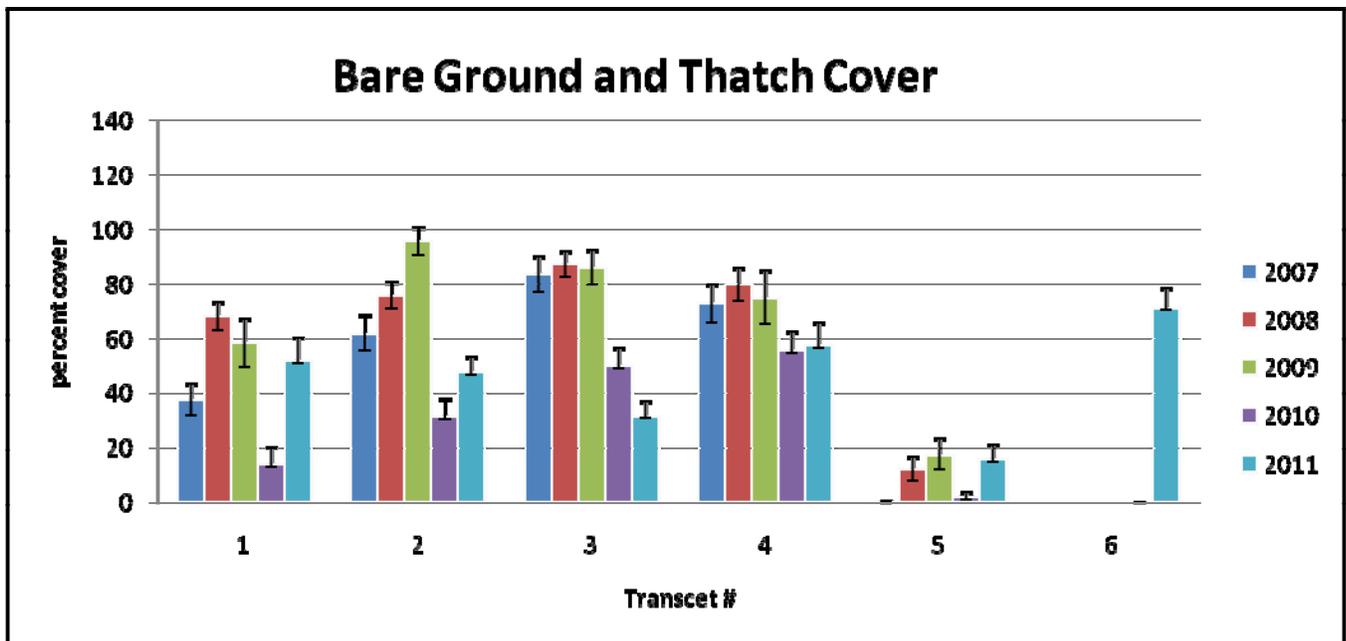


Chart 3: Percent bare ground and thatch cover at San Nicolas Slope from 2007 to 2011.

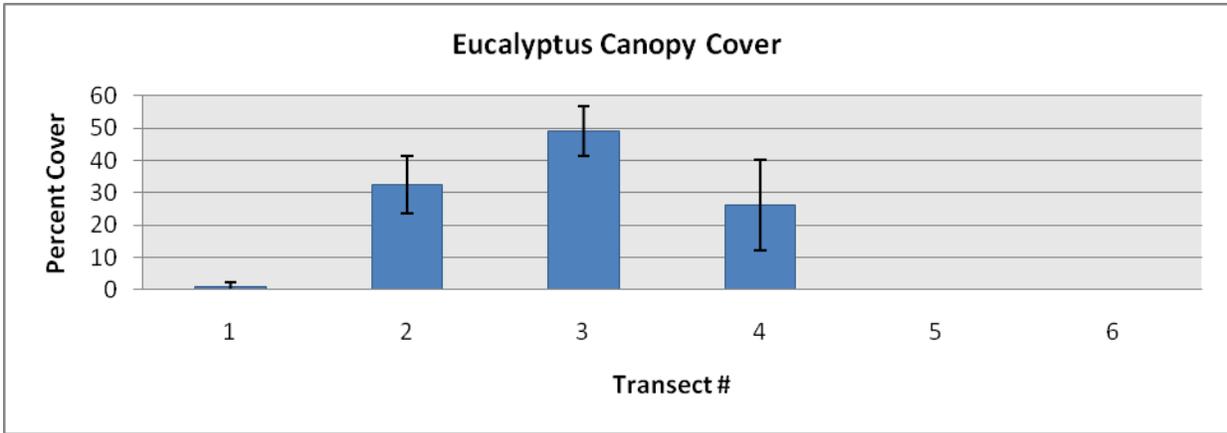


Chart 4: Percent Eucalyptus canopy cover at San Nicolas Slope in 2009.



Figure 2: The native vegetation across transect five is well established at nearly 100 percent cover.

Figure 3: Establishment of natives across transect three was very low due the effects of Eucalyptus litter.

