Habitat and population monitoring for *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* and *Limonium californicum* on the Coos Bay North Spit

2017

Report to the Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District

Report prepared by Denise E.L. Giles, Erin C. Gray, Matt A. Bahm, and Thomas N. Kaye

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PREFACE

This report is the result of an agreement between the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) and a federal agency. IAE is a non-profit organization whose mission is conservation of native ecosystems through restoration, research and education. Our aim is to provide a service to public and private agencies and individuals by developing and communicating information on ecosystems, species, and effective management strategies and by conducting research, monitoring, and experiments. IAE offers educational opportunities through 3-4 month internships. Our current activities are concentrated on rare and endangered plants and invasive species.

Questions regarding this report or IAE should be directed to:

Matt Bahm

Conservation Research Program Director

Institute for Applied Ecology

563 SW Jefferson Avenue

Corvallis, Oregon 97333

phone: 541-753-3099

fax: 541-753-3098

email: mattab@appliedeco.org

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Cover photograph: *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* (Point Reyes bird's-beak), and *Limonium californcium* at the Coos Bay North Spit.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2017 the estimated number of *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* plants on the Coos Bay North Spit land managed by the Coos Bay District of the Bureau of Land Management is ~570,000 (300,000 in the protected area and 270,000 in the unprotected area). This is higher than estimates in 2016 when only ~376,000 were counted (289,000 and 87,000 in the unprotected).

In 2017 the population of *Limonium californicum* decreased from those observed in 2016, and is estimated to be ~564,000 with 468,000 and 97,000 in the protected and unprotected area, respectively. In 2016 it was estimated that the population of *L. californicum* was ~653,000 with 532,000 in the protected and 120,000 in the unprotected area.

Habitat mapping since 2011 has tracked the general decrease in *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* dominant habitat (designated 'CF' for '*Chloropyron* Flat') in the protected area. In 2011, 293m^2 of 'CF' habitat was mapped, in 2017, only 23m^2 were mapped. Similar decreases were observed in the unprotected area, with cover decreasing from 1,268m2 in 2012 to 77m^2 in 2017. The long-term decreases in the cover of 'CF' habitat coincides with increases in the cover of *Limonium californicum* habitats in both the protected and unprotected portions of the occupied habitat.

The relatively small portion of the Coos Bay North Spit occupied with these rare species is found in a long, narrow strip of appropriate habitat in a dynamic system. This narrow strip of land (~700m long with a maximum width of 50m) lies in a precarious location along the shoreline where minor fluctuations in sea level (due to natural or manmade activities), could cause significant loss of habitat.

More immediate effects from ORV use are also evident- particulary in the unprotected area.

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Habitat and population monitoring for *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* and *Limonium californicum* on the Coos Bay North Spit

REPORT TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, COOS BAY DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

Figure 1. Two color variants of *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre*.

Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *palustre* (Point Reyes bird's-beak, still referenced as *Cordylanthus maritimus* ssp. *palustris* in USDA Plants Database; http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=COMA5) is a USFWS Species of Concern, listed as Endangered by the state of Oregon, considered endangered or threatened throughout its range (List 1) by the Oregon Biological Information Center, and a Bureau Sensitive Species with the Bureau of Land Management. *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* is known to occur at 18 sites in Oregon, primarily the Coos Bay area, Yaquina Bay, and Netarts spit (Kaye 1991). *Limonium californicum* (Western marsh rosemary) is a Bureau Sensitive species and is also listed by the State of Oregon as critically imperiled due to rarity or vulnerability to potential extinction. Both species exist together in tidal flats on the North Spit, North Bend, Oregon.

The population of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* at the Coos Bay North Spit has relatively recently been protected from Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use which had caused severe damage to the population. The population at the Coos Bay North Spit is one of the only protected populations of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre*. The population increased following protection; however, in recent years, it appears to be declining (J. Sperling, Coos Bay BLM, personal communication). It has been hypothesized that in the

absence of disturbance, the density of other salt marsh plants, *Limonium californicum* (western marsh-rosemary) and *Salicornia depressa* (pickleweed) has increased, and may be inhibiting recruitment, growth, and/or reproduction of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre*. Changes in the plant community and industrial use of the surrounding bay may have also altered hydrology and sand accretion rates, thus changing site microtopography, and possibly contributing to altered salinity.

There are two primary objectives of this project.

1. Through a combination of annual mapping and monitoring of the population, we will track changes in population size and location through time of both *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* and *Limonium californicum*.
2. Evaluate differences in density of protected and unprotected portions of the populations of both *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* and *Limonium californicum*.

SPECIES BACKGROUND

Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *palustre*

Background information is repeated from Kaye (1991). Additional information can be found in Brian (2002).

Range

Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *palustre* occurs along the Pacific Coast of North America from Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, California, and north to Netarts Spit, Tillamook County, Oregon. In Oregon, the majority of the populations are located in the Coos Bay area. *Limonium californicum* follows a similar distribution pattern along the western coastline.

Figure 2. *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* on the Coos Bay North Spit, note the two color variants, and the salt excretions on the bracts.

Habitat

Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *palustre* is a salt marsh species. It occurs in low-sand salt marshes dominated by *Salicornia depressa*, *Distichlis spicata*, and *Jaumea carnosa*. Elevations are typically at, or just above, sea level. The Pacific Ocean exerts a strong marine influence over the climate of coastal wetlands, moderating environmental extremes. The annual precipitation along the Oregon coast averages about 180 cm, with an average January minimum temperature of 2-5°C, and an average July maximum of 20°C (Franklin and Dyrness 1973). *Limonium californicum* similarly occupies salt-marsh habitat at

elevations millimeters to centimeters above the elevations where C. *maritimum* are found (personal observation).

Description

Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *palustre* grows to 10 to 31 cm in height. Flowers are less than 3.5 cm in length, usually pinkish to purple, though some yellowish-white color variation is also seen. Floral bracts are oblong with a pair of short teeth at the tip. Foliage is grayish green and often villous (Eastman 1990; Figure 1).

Reproductive Biology

Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *palustre* is an annual, reproducing from seed each year. It blooms from June through September (or October) and forms fruits from August through November. Seedlings have been observed in February at Yaquina Bay (T. Kaye, personal observation) and seeds may germinate throughout the winter and early spring. Laboratory studies of the non-marine species of *Chloropyron* show that the seeds from low-elevation species germinate well at moderate temperatures (10°C) and not at high temperatures (27°C), and seeds of high-elevation species require a cold pre-treatment (-14 to -13°C) to germinate (Chuang and Heckard 1971). Seeds of C. *maritimum* ssp. *maritimum*, a different subspecies found in salt marshes in southern California, require fresh water and six weeks of cold storage for germination (Fink and Zedler 1990a, 1990b), and benefit from 1 or 2 years of after-ripening and scarification (Newman 1981).

Pollinators

The flower and attendant bracts of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* form showy inflorescences similar to Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja*, a related genus). Pollinators have not been observed on C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* by IAE staff during monitoring, though the closely related C. *maritimum* ssp. *maritimum* is pollinated by *Bombus* and other solitary bee species (USFWS 2009). It is possible that C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* flowers are pollinated by a nocturnal visitor that was not observed, but we suspect that the flowers are self-pollinating. Fruit-set and seed-set were fairly high on most individuals from which seeds were collected in 1990, a trait typical of self-pollinating, annual plants (Weins 1984). In contrast, solitary bees that nest in nearby upland habitats are required for pollination of C. *maritimum* ssp. *maritimum*, and where pollinators are lacking, seed production is reduced (Lincoln 1985).

Population Biology

As an annual, populations of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* are dependent on the reproductive success of the previous year, and the availability of appropriate habitat. Inundation and flux of fresh and salt water may also be important in

At several sites in the Coos Bay area, C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* grows in dense patches and as dispersed individuals. Known populations across the Oregon coast, while rare (and scattered), often occur in dense patches and less often as dispersed individuals. This demographic pattern may relate to seed dispersal by water and to suitability of microsites for seedling establishment. Seeds dispersed by water and wind, may either spread over a wide area or accumulate in areas where suspended particles settle from the fluid (air or water). Work with C. *maritimum* ssp. *maritimum* indicates a heterogeneous microtopography causes seed entrapment and population establishment (Fink and Zedler 1990a).

Host Plants

All species of *Chloropyron* are hemi-parasites, i.e., they derive some of their resources directly through photosynthesis and also from other plants through underground root connections (Chuang and Heckard 1971). Some species of *Chloropyron* are facultative hemi-parasites in that they are capable of completing their life-cycle without a host under the favorable conditions of a greenhouse, but the plants are almost certainly parasitic in the wild (Chuang and Heckard 1971). The natural hosts for C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* are most likely *Salicornia depressa*, *Distichlis spicata*, *Limonium californicum*, *Deschampsia caespitosa*, and *Jaumea carnosa* (Chuang and Heckard 1971). Evidently, C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* lack host specificity. Instead, the species may have strong habitat preferences that maintain the associations with its standard hosts (Chuang and Heckard 1971). Vanderwier and Newman (1984) have shown that haustoria of C. *maritimum* ssp. *maritimum*, from southern California, are capable of inter- and even intra-specific parasitism in the field and the laboratory. It is not known how soon after germination a seedling in the field will establish a root-connection with a host.

Taxonomy

Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *palustre* is a member of the subgenus *Hemistegia*. Chuang and Heckard (1973) used seed coat morphology to identify relationships within the genus. They revised this species in 1973, recognizing the Oregon coastal plants as the more northern subspecies *palustre*, and retaining subspecies *maritimum* for the southern California and Baja California plants. The latter subspecies is also a candidate for listing by the USFWS.

Limonium californicum

Range

Limonium californicum occurs along the Pacific Coast of North America from San Diego County, California to isolated populations on the Southern Oregon Coast. In Oregon, the majority of the populations are located in the Coos Bay area.

Habitat

Limonium californicum is a salt marsh species found at elevations below 50m. It occurs in low-sand salt marshes dominated by *Salicornia depressa*, *Distichlis spicata*, and *Jaumea carnosa*. See the habitat description of C. *maritima* ssp. *palustre* for further details on salt marsh habitats.

Description, Reproductive and Population Biology

Limonium californicum is a perennial with a heavy, reddish, woody caudex. The leaves are oblong to oblong-obovate, mostly obtuse. The blades are generally 5-20 cm long, tapering into petioles. Flowering stems are stout and generally 20-50 cm, loosely paniculate with branches densely flowered. Flowers are pale violet to white, 5-6mm long and 2mm wide (Jepson 1993; Figure 3). Hundreds of tiny lavender flowers appear and dry on the stalks, much like its ornamental relative, Statice (*Limonium* spp.). There is commonly a crust of salt crystals on the underside of the leaves, and at times whole leaves are white from the dried brine. *L. californicum* reproduces both vegetatively and by seed. It is not known what pollinators play a role in *L. californicum* reproduction; however various species of bumblebees have been observed visiting *L. californicum* flowers by IAE staff during monitoring, as well as some small fly species.

Taxonomy

Limonium californicum is a member of the Plumbaginaceae family.

Figure 3. *Limonium californicum* on the Coos Bay North Spit. On the left, *L. californicum* can be seen co-occuring with C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre*, the flowering stems of *L. californicum* stand above the surrounding vegetation, on the right, a close-up of the loose and branching panicle with many small flowers.

METHODS

Overview

This project was initiated in the C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* population on the Coos Bay North Spit Area of Critical Environmental Concern (T25S, R13W, Section 19, NNW) in Coos County, Oregon (managed by the Coos Bay District of the B LM) in summer 2010 (Table 1). In July 2010, we surveyed the population and delineated the population boundaries using GPS. This information was used to design the sampling and experimental protocols that were initiated in August 2010, and repeated in August 2011. In August 2011, the southwestern portion of the population (beyond the protective barrier) was surveyed for appropriate plot locations. In the protected area, transects were established in 2010, and 2011, with one additional transect added in 2014. In the unprotected area, transects were installed in 2011, and 2012. Twenty meter permanent monitoring transects were installed and marked with rebar topped with plastic caps at both ends. In the unprotected area the head of the transect was marked with rebar placed on the interior side of the road to prevent damage to vehicles using the area, and the monitored portion of the transect begins at the edge of vegetation on the east side of the 'road'. A summary of all

transects installed and monitored as a part of this study are listed in Table 2. Transects are oriented perpendicular to the habitat margin, and extend 20m (Figure 4).

Habitat and Community Measurements

Community composition data was recorded for all transects in 2010-2017. Percent cover for all species was recorded in $1m^2$ increments along the right side of the transect, when viewed from the transect's origin. At each meter, on the 'right' side of the transect when standing at the origin, habitat classes were assigned. In 2014-2017, only 5-10 of the $1m^2$ plots were monitored for plant community, however all were assigned habitat classes. Photopoints were taken annually looking along each transect, from both the beginning and end and are available upon request.

Measurements of *C. maritimum* ssp. *palustre*

C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* sampling occurred on four transects in 2010 and all transects in 2011-2017. C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* measurements include counting the number plants, as well as the number of branches and flowers on each plant, in a randomly placed 0.25m x 0.25m frame. See Appendix A for details regarding protocols for plant monitoring and sub-sampling, as well as habitat class assignments.

Measurements of *L. californicum*

Limonium californicum monitoring occurred on all transects in 2014 through 2017. In 2014, sampling was modified to include measurements of *L. californicum* in the same area sub-sampled for C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre*. *L. californicum* measurements included the count of individuals (seedlings, vegetative or reproductive, and the presence of aborted flowering stems) in the randomly placed 0.25m x 0.25m sub-sampling frame.

Table 1. Timeline of activities from 2010-2017. Initial stages of the study were implemented in 2012 and have been both modified and augmented since that time. In 2014-2017, monitoring protocols were adapted to include measurements of *Limonium californicum*. Items in parentheses are scheduled pending funding for 2018.

Activity	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Delineate Population in Protected Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	(x)
Design Sampling Protocol	X								
Establish long-term monitoring transects and experimental plots	X								
Monitor long-term transects	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	(x)
Take photopoints along all transects	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	(x)
Enter and analyze data, write annual progress report	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	(x)
Delineate Population (in unprotected Area)				X	X	X	X	X	(x)
Design Sampling Protocol (in Unprotected area)				X					
Establish long-term monitoring transects and experimental plots in the unprotected area				X					

Table 2. List of long-term monitoring transects established as a part of this study.

AREA	TRANSECT #	YEAR ESTABLISHED	TAG # (ORIGIN)	TAG # (END)	BEARING	DISTANCE FROM ORIGIN TO VEG START (M)	TOTAL TRANSECT LENGTH (M)
PROTECTED	0	2010	750	871	132°	N/A	20
PROTECTED	2	2011	501	870	120°	N/A	20
PROTECTED	4	2010	751	873	130°	N/A	20
PROTECTED	7	2010	752	868	168°	N/A	20
PROTECTED	11	2010	753	867	255°	N/A	20
PROTECTED	13	2011	514	865	276°	N/A	20
PROTECTED	15	2010	754	869	252°	N/A	20
PROTECTED	16	2011	515	866	250°	N/A	20
PROTECTED	17	2011	517	872	125°	N/A	20
PROTECTED	18	2012	502	864	282°	N/A	20
PROTECTED	19	2014	862	863	200°	N/A	20
UNPROTECTED	20	2012	391	N/A	114°	16	36
UNPROTECTED	21	2012	400	N/A	128°	12	32
UNPROTECTED	22	2012	388	N/A	118°	11.5	31.5
UNPROTECTED	23	2012	385	N/A	124°	16	36
UNPROTECTED	24	2014	386	N/A	130°	17	37
UNPROTECTED	25	2014	387	N/A	124°	13 (right before SADE)	33
UNPROTECTED	26	2014	389	N/A	120°	24 (R of stream)	44 (end in tidal flat)
UNPROTECTED	27	2014	390	N/A	120°	11	31
TOTAL # OF TRANSECTS	**19**						

Population Estimates

In 2010, information from the sample-plots was used to estimate the total population size of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* by multiplying the average number of plants m^{-2} (θ) by the total habitat area (N = 2294 m^2):

$$\textbf{\textit{population size estimate}} = \theta * N$$

In 2011, the sampling method was modified to increase sampling efficiency and accommodate the heterogeneity of the habitat at the site. In 2014, we began using the modified method to estimate the total population size for *L. californicum*. Along each 20m transect, a habitat class was assigned to each 1 m^2 plot (Table 3). To estimate total population size, the average number of plants per m^2 in each habitat type was determined and multiplied by the area covered by each habitat type.

Mapping

In addition to monitoring transects, the area occupied by the C. *maritimum* spp. *palustre* population was mapped by habitat class at a 1m resolution. Habitat classes were defined as described in Table 3, and include distinctions between *L. californicum* or C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* dominant habitat, waterways, bare sand, and areas dominated by *Salicornia depressa* and *Distichlis spicata*. In 2017, an additional habitat class was added to capture the presence of *Juncus gerardii*. (While this species was present in previous years, in 2017, the size of these *J. gerardii* patches had expanded such that they could be mapped. Boundaries between habitat classes were delineated using an Oregon GPS 450 handheld unit. Data was compiled using MapWindow, an open source GIS software, to delineate boundaries between habitat types. In 2012-2017, the unprotected area was also mapped using the same habitat class delineations used in the protected area. In the unprotected area, the boundaries of vegetated habitat that had recent vehicular activity was mapped as 'disturbed area' and overlain onto the habitat maps.

Table 3. Habitat codes used for mapping in 2011-2017. Heavily disturbed areas (with rutted tire tracks) were also noted in the unprotected area.

Code	Habitat	Description
CF	*Chloropyron* flat	*Chloropyron* cover ≥ 50%
LCF	*Limonium-Chloropyron* flat	*Limonium, Chloropyron* codominant
LF	*Limonium* flat	*Limonium* cover ≥ 50%
GT	Grass transition	Differentiated by presence of *Ammophila* or *Leymus,* marks transition into small stabilized dune habitat. Some *Chloropyron* present but only in trace amounts. This is the absolute upper boundary of COMAPA habitat.
SD	*Salicornia* depression	*Salicornia* dominant species; area of higher water during the tide. Differs from waterway by abundant *Salicornia*, and little to no bare sand.
SDD	*Salicornia-Distichlis* depression	*Salicornia* dominant, but *Distichlis* cover ≥ 25%
Sand	*Sand*	Highest reach of the tide, but water does not linger here for long. At least some COMAPA in trace amounts.
Junc	*Juncus gerardii* in flats	*Juncus gerardii* cover greater than 10%. Commonly with *Jaumea carnosa*. As of 2017 only present on the southwest portion of the protected area. This habitat class was added in 2017.
Waterway	Waterway	Other plants may be here, but not appropriate habitat for COMAPA. Various courses throughout entire area, usually adjacent to SD, SDD.
D-Rise	*Distichlis* rise	Small hill, *Distichlis* dominated, with minor patches of *Jaumea carnosa* nearest to the ocean.
Marsh	Marshy area	Marshy area dominated by *Scirpus sp.*, area inundated by tides.

Figure 4. Area surveyed for *Chloropyron maritima* ssp. *palustre*. Blue lines indicate monitoring transects established in 2010-2012. See Appendix A for maps and information regarding all monitoring transects.

Figure 5. Monitoring transect in the protected area showing the patchiness of the habitats, which are greatly influenced by microtopography. Photopoints from each monitoring transect are included in Appendix A.

Community Analysis

We used a common ordination method, non-metric multidimensional scaling [NMS; (Kruskal 1964)], to assess relationships of individual species cover relative to primary gradients in the plant community (ordination axes). NMS is an ordination method that is best used for community analyses, often with non-normal data with non-linear relationships (McCune and Grace 2002). Due to heterogeneity in the data set, rare species that occurred in 5% or less of the plots were deleted and species cover data was log(x+1) transformed to reduce skewness. Outliers (those greater than 2 SD from the mean) were removed. We assessed species data relative to an environmental matrix with cover data of bare ground, litter, and habitat type (protected/unprotected). NMS ordinations were performed using PC-ORD version 7.0 (McCune and Mefford 2011) with the autopilot setting "slow and thorough" mode, Sørensen distance measure, and no penalty for ties. We ordinated data from 2017 only to look at trends related to the plant community in protected and unprotected areas. In addition, we conducted an ordination on data from eight years in the protected area only.

Differences in plant community between protected and unprotected areas (in 2017 only) were tested with multi-response permutation procedure (MRPP; Mielke and Berry 2001) using the Sørensen distance measure, in PC-ORD. Due to differences found using MRPP, we conducted an Indicator Species Analysis to investigate if species were associated with the protected or unprotected area. Indicator Species Analysis combines relative abundance and relative frequency of a species in defined groups, and produces indicator values (IVs), which are the percentage of perfect indication for a species within a particular group (McCune and Grace 2002). Statistical significance of indicator values (*p*-value) is evaluated using a Monte Carlo method of randomizations; 1000 randomizations were run to determine the proportion of random trials that gave indicators equal to or greater than the observed.

RESULTS

Population Survey

Chloropyron maritimum ssp. *palustre*

The edges of the C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* population at the North Spit were defined by *Pinus contorta* var. *contorta*/*Cytisus scoparius* scrub transitioning to *Ammophila arenaria*/sand with scattered *Leymus mollis*. This drops off into an area more regularly impacted by tides/waves. *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* distribution is patchy, from clumps of plants scattered in dense stands of *S. depressa*, to large swathes interspersed with *L. californicum*. Until 2014, *L. californicum* was present at low abundances in the disturbed area. Both color morphs (green and purple) of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* were evenly represented throughout the population.

Variation in density and size of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* may be due to a combination of plant community and abiotic factors. Microtopographic variations also effect the levels of inundation experienced on site. The establishment (and subsequent stabilization) of substrate has been noted particularly in the protected area, where *L. californicum* cover has increased; most likely due to decreases in disturbance to this perennial species.

We estimated that in 2010, the total number of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* in the protected area at the North Spit was 380,991 plants. In 2011-2017, due to the patchiness of the population, the population size in the protected area was estimated by calculating the average number of plants per m^2 in all habitat classifications and then multiplying by the areal cover of each habitat class (Table 4). In the protected area, the population of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* has ranged from a high of ~916,000 in 2011 to a low of ~124,000 in 2012. In 2017 the population of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* is estimated to be ~299,856 (Table 4). The precipitous drop of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* between 2011 and 2012 in the protected area coincides with decreases in the cover of C. *maritimum* spp. *palustre* dominated habitat classes (CF and less so LCF) and increases in the cover of *Limonium* dominated habitat types (LF).

In 2012, the population in the unprotected area was estimated to contain ~545,000 C. *maritimum* spp. *palustre* plants, and in 2013, this number decreased to ~296,000 (Table 6). Values rebounded in 2014 and 2015 (Figure 6), and then decreased in 2016 to the lowest estimated value of just 93,000, and in 2017 values rebounded again (Table 6, Figure 6). In 2017, values returned to those observed in the unprotected area, the population of C. *maritimum* spp. *palustre* has ranged from a low of ~87,000 in 2016 to and a high of ~970,000 in 2015 (Table 6).

Both the protected and unprotected populations have followed similar trends indicating that similar factors are influencing the population dynamics in both portions of the population (Figure 6). Continued monitoring of transects combined with habitat surveys is recommended on at least a three-year cycle to elucidate the population trends for both listed species in the protected and unprotected portions of the site. More regular monitoring is recommended if activities that could affect microtopography at the site are to be undertaken (including but not limited to dredging activities).

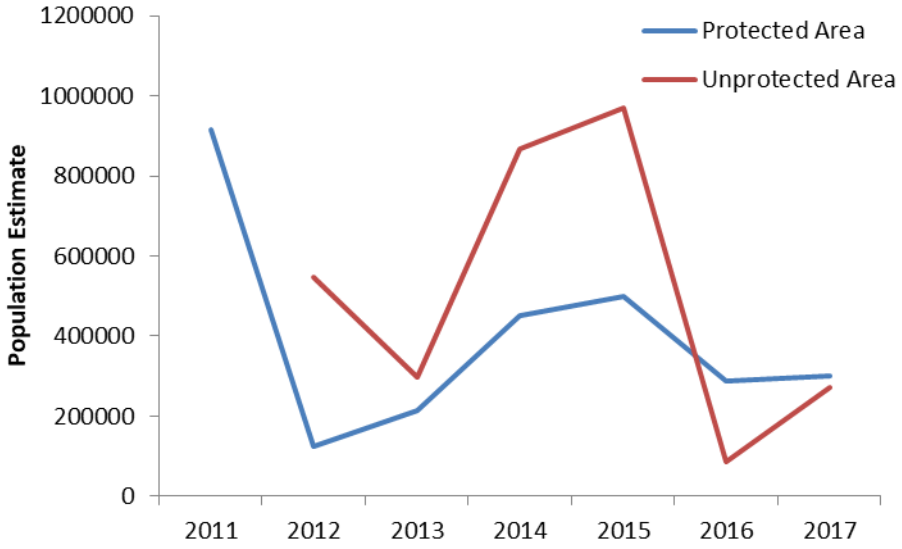

Figure 6. Estimated population size of *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* on the Coos Bay North Spit from 2011-2017. The unprotected area was not monitored in 2011.

NUMBER OF BRANCHES AND FLOWERS

The number of branches and flowers on each C. *maritimum* subsp. *palustre* by habitat type is listed in Table 5, Figure 8. The average number of branches on C. *maritimum* subsp. *palustre*, in both the protected and unprotected area has ranged from 1.5-5.1 per plant in the protected area and 1.5-4.6 in the unprotected area (Table 5). From 2011-2016, the protected area had more branches and flowers per plant than the unprotected area. The average number of flowers per plant follows a similar pattern, with the protected area having more flowers (and branches) per plant from 2011-2016. In 2017, the unprotected area had the higher numbers of branches and flowers than the protected area(Figure 7, Figure 8).

The number of branches on C. *maritimum* subsp. *palustre* in different habitat types differs between habitat classes; *Salicornia* dominant ("SD" and "SDD") habitats, had more branches than plants found in "CF", "LCF" or "LF" habitats. A similar, though less clear pattern was observed in the number of flowers per plant in the different habitat types. Higher numbers of branches per plant were observed in the *Salicornia* dominant habitats in both protected and unprotected areas (Figure 8, Table 7).

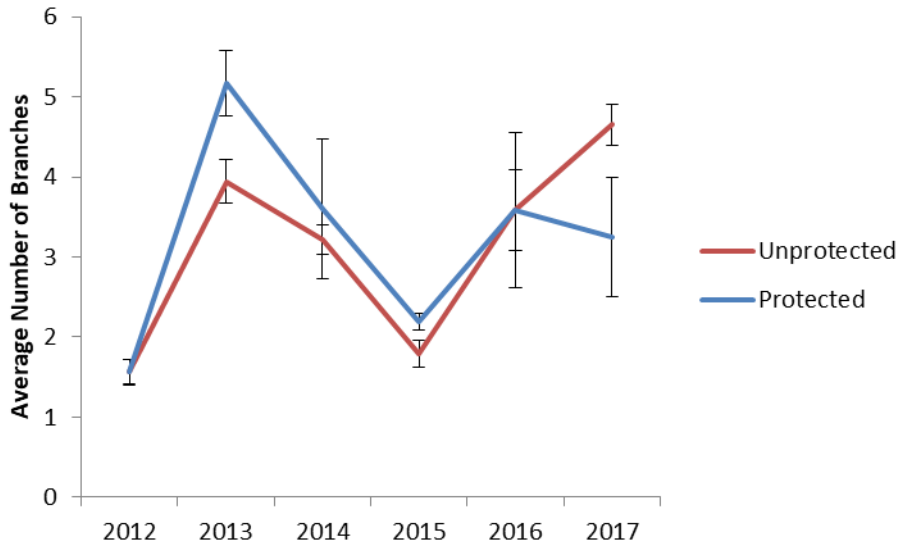

Figure 7. Average number of branches per plant from 2012-2017 in the protected and unprotected areas. Errors bar represent 95% C.I.

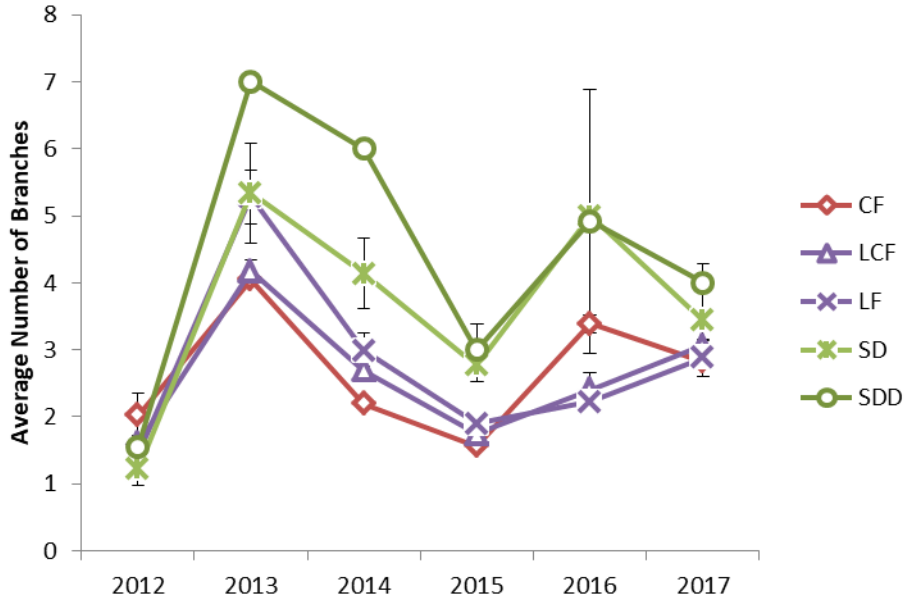

Figure 8. Average number of branches per plant in the protected habitat from 2012-2017 on C. *maritimum* subsp. *palustre*. Error bars represent 95% C.I.

Table 4. Areal cover of each habitat type from 2011-2017

		Area (m^2)						
	Habitat Code	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**
PROTECTED	CF	293	3	7	8	300	94	23
	DRise	393	353	271	213	488	130	452
	GT	928	930	435	487	388	529	360
	LCF	1468	337	693	576	198	1543	1168
	LF	498	1398	1386	2198	1940	1036	1286
	Marsh	214	353	178	577	200	548	754
	Sand	110	72	33	417	609	18	0
	SD	1011	1662	2379	431	3388	3268	3128
	SDD	747	1492	1339	2349	193	579	180
UNPROTECTED	CF		1268	973	213	780	91	77
	DRise		0	1268	1621	1646	1540	1786
	LCF		0	0	719	16	452	555
	Marsh		66	36	65	Not mapped	Not Mapped	365
	SD/SDD	N/A	20310	19297	20079	20089	20012	19217

Table 5. Number of *Chloropyron maritimum* spp. *palustre* plants per m^2 in protected and unprotected areas at North Spit from 2011-2017. The unprotected area was not mapped in 2011. 95% confidence intervals for average number of plants per unit area follow in parentheses. *"CF" habitat was not mapped in the unprotected area in 2016, thus the protected area estimate was utilized for population estimates.

		CHMAPA/m^2						
	Habitat Code	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**
PROTECTED	CF	256	256 (±11)	256 (±102)	1061 (±155)	731 (±108)	277 (±35)	1160 (±274)
	LCF	425	254 (±64)	254 (±119)	572 (±78)	404 (±78)	137 (±25)	493 (±81)
	LF	12	15.5 (±6)	15 (±11)	49 (±30)	67 (±29)	35 (±14)	16 (±12)
	SD	0	2 (±7)	2 (±13)	10 (±10)	16 (±16)	1 (±4)	16 (±6)
	SDD	0	9 (±35)	9 (±7)	1 (±3)	69 (±34)	20 (±7)	16 (±8)
UNPROTECTED	CF		331 (±58)	181 (±210)	784 (±201)	864 (±0)	277* (±35*)	1320 (±209)
	LCF	N/A	0 (±68)	0 (±0)	700 (±150)	304 (±0)	122 (±69)	288 (±0)
	SD/SDD		13 (±30)	3 (±34)	22 (±20)	15 (±16)	1 (±7)	1 (±2)

Table 6. Population estimates for *Chloropyron maritimum* spp. *palustre* by habitat in protected and unprotected areas at North Spit. The unprotected area was not mapped in 2011.

		CHMAPA						
	Habitat Code	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**
PROTECTED	CF	286554	768	1675	8488	219300	26038	26680
	DRise		0	0	0	0	0	0
	GT		0	0	0	3725	0	177480
	LCF	623900	85598	175995	320206	79992	211329	22192
	LF	5976	21674	20291	132019	92207	36664	20576
	Marsh		0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sand		0	0	0	0	0	0
	SD		2955	4229	9968	53643	1472	50048
	SDD		13428	12047	37589	13381	1654	2880
	Waterway		0	0	0	0	0	0
UNPROTECTED	CF	-	419285	176354	166678	673920	25207	101640
	DRise	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
	GT	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
	LCF	-	0	0	503150	4864	54963	159840
	LF	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Marsh	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sand	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SD	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SDD	-	126373	120069	333620	374995	13529	8648
	Waterway	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protected Area Estimate		**916430**	**124423**	**214238**	**451381**	**500522**	**277118**	**299856**
Unprotected Area Estimate			**545659**	**296422**	**867066**	**970074**	**87355**	**270128**
TOTAL			**670081**	**510660**	**1318448**	**1470596**	**376219**	**569984**

Limonium californicum

In 2014 monitoring plots were also assessed for *L. californicum*. Over the course of this study, it was noted that the aerial cover of *L. californicum* was increasing in both the protected and unprotected areas (Table 7, Table 9). Increased monitoring efforts allowed us to make populations estimates using the same methodology employed for C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre*; by calculating the average number of *L. californicum* plants in each mapped habitat class and scaling based on the area occupied by each habitat class. In 2014, the estimated population size of *L. californicum* in the unprotected area was 130,210 and in 2015 decreased to 47,678. This decrease was noted in all size classes (reproductive, vegetative and seedlings; (Table 7). In 2016 and 2017, the population in the unprotected area, increased to 120,702 and 96,758 respectively. No seedlings were found in the unprotected area in 2014-2017.

In the protected area, the population was estimated to be 832,518 in 2014 and has decreased to 468,181 in 2017 (Table 9, Figure 9). Seedlings of *L. californicum* were only found in the protected area, in habitats classified as "Grass transition" (9.6/m^2) as well as in habitats where *L. californicum* was dominant or co-dominant (LF 6.7/m^2 and LCF 3.3/m^2).

Although the total number of *L. californicum* in the protected area has decreased since monitoring began in 2014, the areal cover of habitats with *L. californicum* has continued to increase, particularly in the unprotected area. The apparent decrease in the total number of plants in the protected area is likely related to the establishment and longevity of large individuals, rather than declines in the health of the population.

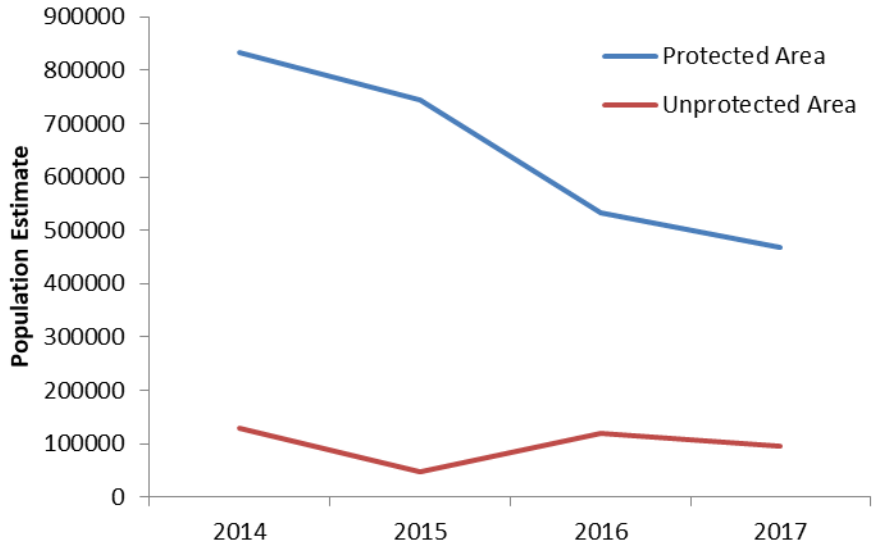

Figure 9. Population estimate from 2014-2017 of *L. californicum*.

Table 7. Number of *Limonium californicum* seedlings, vegetative and reproductive plants per m^2 in the unprotected and protected areas at North Spit in 2014-2017. Numbers in parentheses represent 95% confidence intervals.

		seedlings/m^2				veg/m^2				repro/m^2			
	Habitat Code	**2014**	**2015**	**2016***	**2017**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**
PROTECTED	CF	10 (±11)	4 (±4)	-	0	56 (±19)	63 (±15)	56 (±17)	59 (±32)	13 (±5)	10 (±5)	5 (±5)	13 (±9)
	D-rise	0	0	-	0	37 (±23)	0	0	0	21 (±21)	0	0	0
	GT	6 (±6)	6 (±6)	-	10 (±10)	0	45 (±27)	0	0	0	16 (±16)	0	0
	LCF	5 (±2)	1(±1)	-	3 (±3)	128 (±15)	117 (±19)	85 (±10)	95 (±14)	40 (±6)	18 (±4)	61 (±11)	43 (±7)
	LF	16 (±6)	1 (±1)	-	7 (±3)	207 (±19)	268 (±23)	116 (±8)	125 (±9)	93 (±10)	40 (±5)	132 (±8)	45 (±5)
	SD	3 (±3)	<1 (±0)	-	0	6 (±2)	16 (±5)	10 (±3)	18 (±4)	2 (±1)	3 (±1)	2 (±1)	4 (±1)
	SDD	0	0	-	0	5 (±3)	21 (±10)	8 (±6)	4 (±3)	3 (±2)	8 (±5)	5 (±4)	5 (±4)
UNPROTECTED	CF	3 (±3)	0	-	0	9 (±7)	16 (±0)	0	72 (±40)	4 (±4)	0 (±0)	16 (±0)	40 (±0)
	D-rise	0	0	-	0	2 (±1)	0	0	0	0	0 (±0)	0	0
	LCF	8 (±5)	0	-	0	76 (±29)	16 (±0)	115 (±0)	32 (±0)	56 (±0)	16 (±16)	69 (±0)	16 (±0)
	SD	0	0	-	0	1(±1)	2 (±1)	2 (±1)	4 (±2)	0	<1 (±1)	1 (±1)	1 (±1)
	SDD	<1 (±0)	0	-	0	5 (±2)	0	1 (±1)	1 (±1)	1 (±0)	0	1(±0)	<1 (±0)

- No seedlings were noted in 2016 in the monitored plots.

Table 8. Total number of *Limonium californicum* per m^2 in the unprotected and protected areas at North Spit in 2014-2017. Numbers in parentheses represent 95% confidence intervals.

		Total LICA/m^2			
	Habitat Code	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**
PROTECTED	CF	79 (±22)	76 (±20)	61 (±18)	72 (±31)
	D-rise	59 (±30)	0	0	0
	GT	6 (±6)	67 (±42)	0	10 (±10)
	LCF	173 (±19)	135 (±21)	145 (±17)	142 (±16)
	LF	315 (±26)	309 (±24)	247 (±13)	176 (±13)
	SD	11 (±5)	19 (±5)	12 (±3)	22 (±7)
	SDD	8 (±5)	29 (±15)	13 (±8)	10 (±7)
UNPROTECTED	CF	16 (±14)	16 (±0)	16 (±0)	112 (±48)
	D-rise	2 (±2)	0	0	0
	LCF	140 (±32)	32 (±0)	184 (±38)	48 (±0)
	SD	1 (±1)	2 (±1)	3 (±2)	5 (±3)
	SDD	5 (±2.	0	2 (±1)	2 (±1)

Table 9. Population estimates for *Limonium californicum* by habitat in protected and unprotected areas at North Spit. Areal covers of each habitat type by year are listed in Table 4.

		LICA			
	Habitat Code	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**
PROTECTED	CF	593	22933	5765	1656
	DRise	12496	0	0	0
	GT	3123	26006	0	3456
	LCF	99608	26815	224167	165856
	LF	693166	598898	256085	226336
	Marsh	0	0	0	0
	Sand	0	0	0	0
	SD	4740	63435	38648	69129
	SDD	18792	5661	7334	1728
	Waterway	0	0	0	0
UNPROTECTED	CF	3392	12480	1456	8624
	DRise	2358	0	0	0
	GT	0	0	0	0
	LCF	100660	512	83168	26640
	LF	0	0	0	0
	Marsh	0	0	0	0
	Sand	0	0	0	0
	SD	23800	34686	36078	61494
	SDD	0	0	0	0
	Waterway	0	0	0	0
Protected Area Estimate		**832518**	**743748**	**531999**	**468161**
Unprotected Area Estimate		**130210**	**47678**	**120702**	**96758**
TOTAL		**962728**	**791426**	**652701**	**564919**

Community Analysis

The NMS ordination of sample units in species space in the protected habitat (2010-2017; Figure 10) resulted in a 3-dimensional stable solution (final stress = 11.9, final instability = 0.0000). A randomization test confirmed that final stress was lower than expected by chance ($p = 0.02$). Sample units from all years tended to be intermixed (Figure 10). Axis 1 explained 68% of the variability with Axis 2 explaining 15%. *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* (COMAPA) was negatively correlated with Axis 1 (r = -0.42), along with natives *L. californicum* (LICA; r = -0.9), *Plantago maritima* (PLMA; r = -0.49), and *J. carnosa* (JACA; r = -0.36). *S. depressa* (SADE) had a positive correlation with Axis 1 (r = 0.90), along with *Distichlis spicata* (DISP; r = 0.35). Ordination scores were similar to those in recent years, suggesting that these species associations remain over time, but can shift slightly (Figure 10). *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* continued to be associated with species such as *L. californicum* and *J. carnosa* which are known as potential host plants for the hemi-parasite. These trends are similar to those observed in previous years. *S. depressa* and *D. spicata* were associated with each other but few other species, indicating that these species do not co-exist with C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* or others that are prevalent in the community.

Protected and unprotected habitats differed significantly in community composition in 2017 (MRPP; A = 0.12, $P < 0.0000$) and tended to separate in species space (NMS ordination, 2 dimensional solution, final stress=13.9, instability=0.0000; Figure 11. Litter was positively associated with axis 1 (r=0.67), along with *D. spicata* (r=0.59), *S. depressa* (r=0.76), and *T. maritima* (r=0.2); the sample units in the unprotected area tended to be more clustered along the positive end of axis 1 as well (Figure 11). All other species were negatively associated with axis 1, and sample units from the protected area tended to be more negatively associated with axis 1 (Figure 11). Species richness was higher in protected habitat than in the unprotected habitat (18 and 12, respectively). Many species were identified as indicators of the protected habitat while only two were identified as indicators of the unprotected habitat (Figure 11). C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* was an indicator of the protected area ($p < 0.01$) in 2017, along with *C. pacifica, C. album, J. carnosa, F. rubra, H. jubatum, L. californicum, P. maritima,* and *S. macrotheca* (Table 10). Similar to previous years, the only indicator species of the unprotected habitat were *D. spicata* and *S. depressa.*

C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* occurred in both habitats, but had higher average cover in the protected habitat than in the unprotected (11.7% and 8.8%, respectively); this was an increase in cover from 2016 in both habitats (3.8% and 0.3%, respectively). *L. californicum* occurred in both habitats, but was much more prevalent in the protected than in the unprotected habitat (40.4% and 5.7%, respectively). *L. californicum* increased slightly from 2016 values in both habitat types. The stark difference in cover of *L. californicum* in the protected vs. unprotected habitats could suggest that it does not tolerate disturbance as well as other species in the community, such as *D. spicata or S. depressa.* While cover of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* has declined in recent years, we observed an increase in 2017 in both habitat types. C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* had patchy abundance within the unprotected area, however, these patches have remained in a similar geographic location throughout the years (Figure 14, Figure 17, Figure 18). These results were consistent with the percentage of transects located in specific habitat classes; protected habitats had greater composition of *Limonium* flat than unprotected habitats in 2017 (Figure 12). Likewise, transects in the unprotected habitat had greater percentages of *Salicornia* depression and *Salicornia-Distichlis* depression than in protected habitats (Figure 12). In recent years, the habitat classes in the protected area have been shifting towards greater cover of "LF" habitat, with decreases in the cover of "CF" and "LCF" habitats from 2014-2017 (Figure 13).

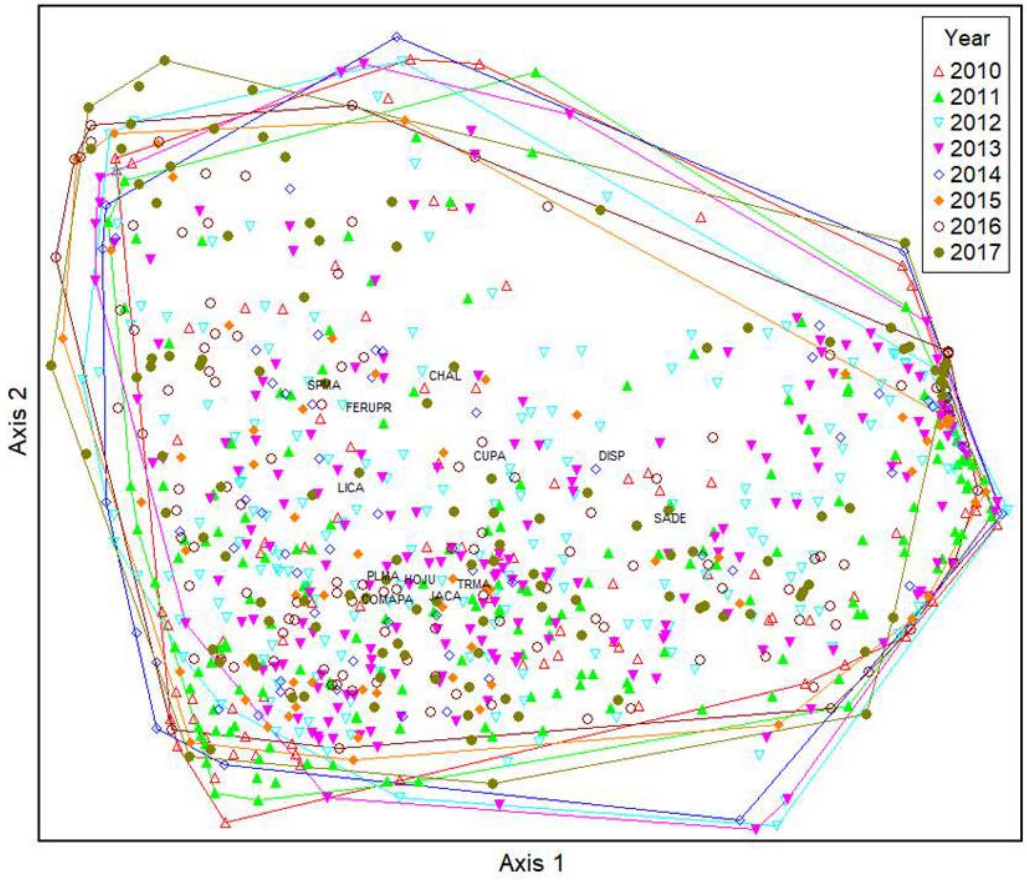

Figure 10. NMS ordination of community composition within the protected area of the *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* population at the Coos Bay North Spit (2010-2017). Triangles represent sample units (quadrats along transects) in species space, and distance between points indicates similarity of community composition by quadrat. Polygons outline the extent of all of the sample units. Blue dots and species abbreviations (Table 7) indicate the centroid for species locations.

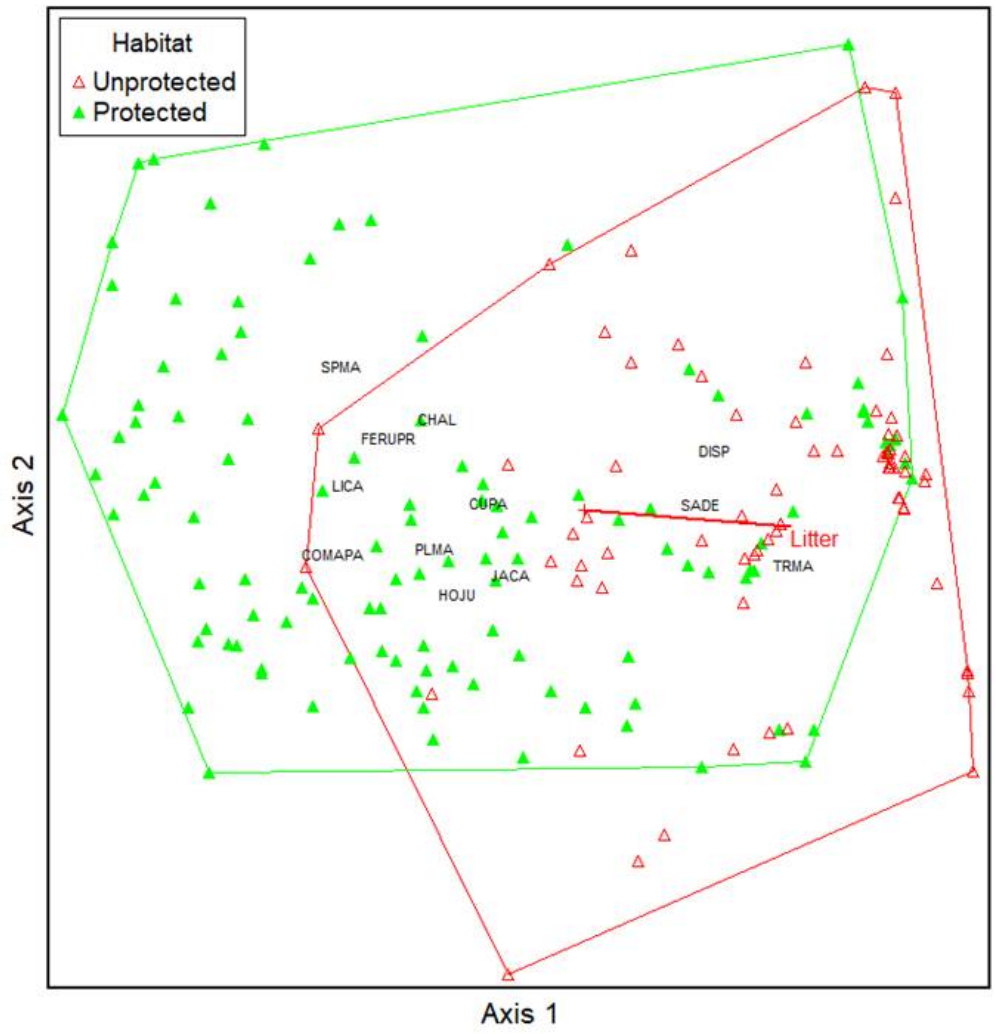

Figure 11. NMS ordination of community composition within the protected and unprotected habitat types (2017). Triangles represent sample units (quadrats along transects) in species space, and distance between points indicates similarity of community composition by quadrat. Polygons outline the extent of all of the sample units. Blue dots and species abbreviations (Table 7) indicate the centroid for species locations.

Table 10. Species list including nativity from plots within the *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre* population at the Coos Bay North Spit in 2017. Species codes are from the USDA PLANTS database (USDA NRCS 2012). Species included in the indicator species analysis noted Indicator Species column, 'Habitat' refers to the area they indicate and '*P* value' is associated with the indicator value for that species. * indicates species that occurred in less than 5% of the sample units and were not included in the Indicator Species Analysis but were present in 2017.

Species	Code	Nativity	Indicator species?	Habitat	*P* value
Ammophila arenaria	AMAR	Exotic	*		
Cakile edentula	CAED	Native	*		
Chenopodium album	**CHAL**	**Exotic**	**Y**	**Protected**	**0.0002**
Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *palustre	**COMAPA**	**Native**	**Y**	**Protected**	**0.0002**
Cuscuta pacifica	**CUPA**	**Native**	**Y**	**Protected**	**0.0002**
Distichlis spicata	**DISP**	**Native**	**Y**	**Unprotected**	**0.0006**
Festuca rubra ssp. littoralis	**FERUPR**	**Native**	**Y**	**Protected**	**0.06**
Grindelia stricta	GRST	Native	*		
Hordeum brachyantherum	HOBR	Exotic	*		
Hordeum jubatum	**HOJU**	**Native**	**Y**	**Protected**	**0.02**
Jaumea carnosa	**JACA**	**Native**	**Y**	**Protected**	**0.0008**
Juncus bufonius	JUBU	Native	*		
Juncus gerardii	JUGE	Exotic	*		
Limonium californicum	**LICA**	**Native**	**Y**	**Protected**	**0.0002**
Plantago maritima	**PLMA**	**Native**	**Y**	**Protected**	**0.0002**
Salicornia depressa	**SADE**	**Native**	**Y**	**Unprotected**	**0.0004**
Spergularia macrotheca	**SPMA**	**Native**	**Y**	**Protected**	**0.004**
Triglochin maritima	TRMA	Native	N		

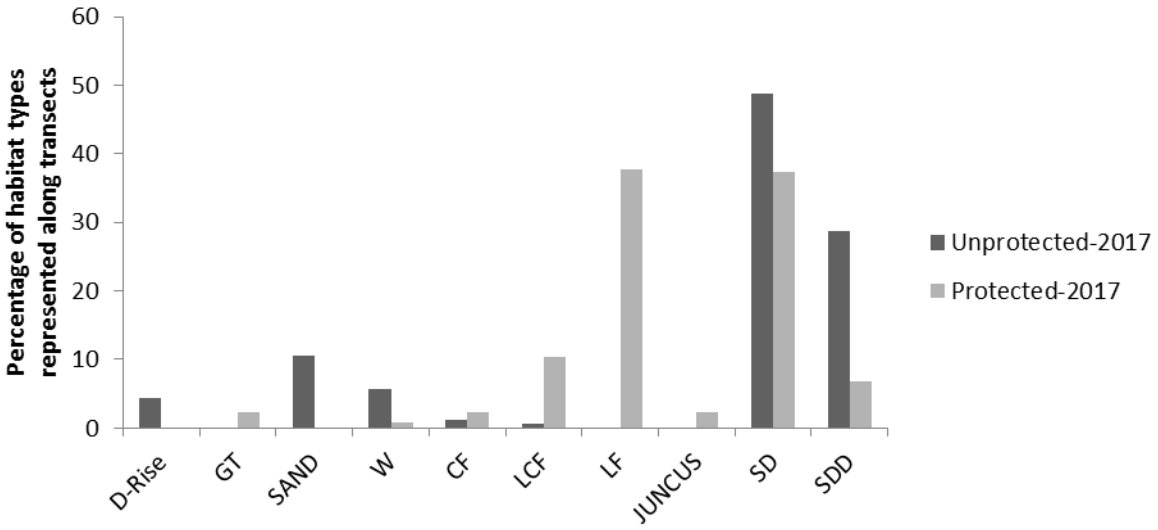

Figure 12. Percent of habitat classes represented along transects in both protected and unprotected habitats in 2017. Habitat classes correspond to Table 3.

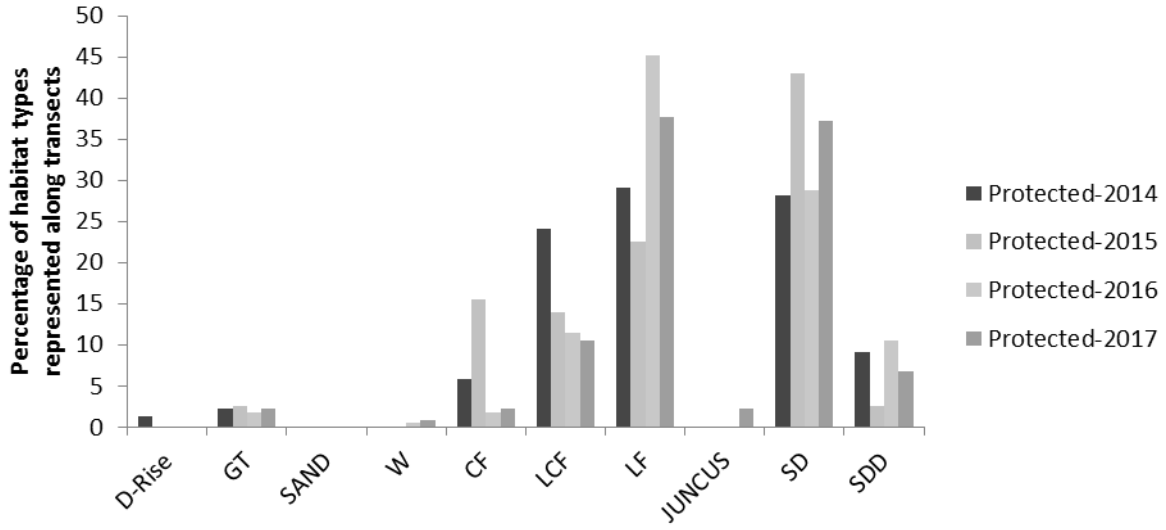

Figure 13. Percentage of habitat types in the protected area from 2014-2017.

Habitat Mapping

In 2011-2017 a habitat map was created using the habitat classes listed in Table 3 (Figure 14 - Figure 17). The map has been updated annually to detect shifts in habitat type that may affect the success of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* and *L. californicum*. In both the areas, the density of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* has fluctuated annually, (range 181-1064 plants/m^2), however in each year, the changes in density have been consistent between protected and unprotected areas. For example, in years where density of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* was low in CF habitats in the protected area, the density was also low in the unprotected area (Figure 6, Table 4). In 2014-2017, in the protected area, the density of *L. californicum* was consistently higher than in the unprotected area, in CF and LCF habitat types (Table 7).

Protected Area

In 2011, we surveyed ~7,000m^2 of occupied habitat in the protected area, with 293 m^2 mapped as "*Chloropyron* Flat" (CF) and 1,468 m^2 *Limonium-Chloropyron* Flat (LCF). In 2012, there were changes in cover of all habitats associated with C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre*; CF cover decreased to only 3m^2, and the cover of LF increased considerably from 498m^2 in 2011 to 1398 m^2 in 2012. From 2011-2012, there were also increases in both the "*Salicornia* Depressions" (SD) and "*Salicornia-Distichlis* Depressions" (SDD) cover. In 2013 and 2014, this trend continued with a shift towards *Limonium* dominated plant communities and lower cover of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre*. In 2015, the cover of CF habitat increased, with a concomitant decrease in *L. californicum* dominated habitat types. In 2016 and 2017, cover of CF habitats decreased to 94m^2 and only 23m^2 respectively. From 2011-2017 the relative cover of each of the habitat types occupied by the sensitive species (CF, LCF and LF) has varied from being C. *maritimum* spp. *palustre* dominant to *L. californicum* dominant, although the total cover of occupied habitat types has remained relatively stable at ~2,500 m^2 collectively in the protected area.

Unprotected Area

In 2012, the habitat in the southern, disturbed portion of the area was also mapped using the same habitat classifications. Because the southern area is so much larger than the protected area, (~22,000 m^2 compared to ~7,200 m^2), the habitat mapping in the unprotected area is at a much coarser resolution than that in the protected area. In the southern unprotected area the dominant habitat class is SDD with *Distichlis spicata* co-occurring with *Salicornia* in more than 90% of the habitat. "*Chloropyron* Flats" were the next most common habitat type covering approximately 1,200 m^2 in 2012 and ~1,000m^2 in 2013. The cover of CF habitat has continued to decrease since that time, and in 2016, cover of CF habitat was only 91m^2, very similar to the 94m^2 in the protected area. Cover of LCF has increased since mapping began, and in 2016 450m^2 of LCF was mapped in the unprotected area. In addition to habitat classes, the boundaries of the disturbed area were marked in 2012-2016 and overlaid onto the habitat map Figure 18).

DISCUSSION

There was high variability in the number *Chloropyron* from 2010-2017, with population estimates ranging from a low of ~124,000 in 2012 to ~916,000 in 2011, in the protected area. In the unprotected area, the population has ranged from a low of just ~88,000 in 2017 to a high of just over 1,000,000 in 2014 and 2015. Vegetation removal experiments did not elucidate any potential effects of competitors on *Chloropyron* growth. As this species is a hemi-parasite and known to be associated with higher cover of select species, it is not surprising that we did not find a positive effect of our vegetation treatment. While it

is known that the species is a hemi-parasite, with limited host specificity, it is unknown which adjacent plant species are being parasitized by *Chloropyron*. Notably, *Chloropyron* in both the protected and unprotected area tended to have more branches (and more flowers) in areas that were dominated by *Salicornia*. The observed differences in branching and flowering of this hemi-parasite, could be related to the availability of nutrients from neighboring vegetation or lack of competition. Higher density of C. *maritimum* subsp. *palustre* in the protected area, may limit the availability of other plant hosts to parasitize.

Populations estimates of *Limonium californicum* calculated from 2014-2017 indicate that the population is stable (but relatively smaller) in the unprotected area, and that the number of total plants has been decreasing in the protected area, while at the same time the areal cover of *L. californicum* dominant habitat has increased in the protected area. The decrease in the number of plants observed in the protected area, could be due to the establishment of large long-lived individuals which take up more space than younger, smaller individuals.

From 2011-2017 there were fluctuations in the cover of different habitat classes in the protected area; particularly in the cover of habitat types associated with *Limonium californicum*. It is likely that this perennial plant is benefitting from the lack of disturbance in the protected area. Very little *L. californicum* was found in the unprotected area, and rarely enough to classify the habitat as "LCF" or "LF" at the scale mapped. Additionally, it was noted that the C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* was commonly associated with the disturbed areas in the unprotected area, and patches were found in the same locations across years (Figure 18). Continued habitat mapping and population surveys will elucidate general population trends of these two bureau sensitive species, which will allow for more targeted management recommendations to be made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that transects in both the protected and unprotected area continue to be monitored into the future on at least a three year cycle unless natural or manmade activities could cause substantial changes in microtopography or local sea-level. We also recommend continued (and coincident) data collection be continued on the Bureau Sensitive *Limonium californicum* in the area. The presence of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* in the disturbed portion of the unprotected area, and the increasing dominance of *L. californicum* in the protected area indicates that further work may be necessary to balance the needs of both species.

The presence of the non-native *J. gerardii* is cause for concern, and this mat-forming graminoid should be targeted for eradication. Hand-pulling in outside the growing season is recommended to decrease cover of this exotic species and attempt to reduce the impacts of species removal on C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* and *L. californicum*.

Future work on these native species may include further investigation and characterization of the parasitic relationship between C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* and its hosts; identification of pollinators (of both sensitive species) as well as microtopographical effects on the presence, abundance and establishment of both species. The timing and intensity of salt and freshwater inundation, as well annual precipitation cycles may also have effects on the success and vigor of these plants. Future work can also begin to examine potential causes for changes in the cover of habitat classes over our study period. In the protected area, we have seen a shift towards increasing cover of *Limonium californicum*, in the protected area, whereas little to none is found in the unprotected area. Comparing the observed changes against local climate factors, land-uses

changes, or other physical factors including both local and global sea level changes could potentially provide valuable information for management of these populations into the future.

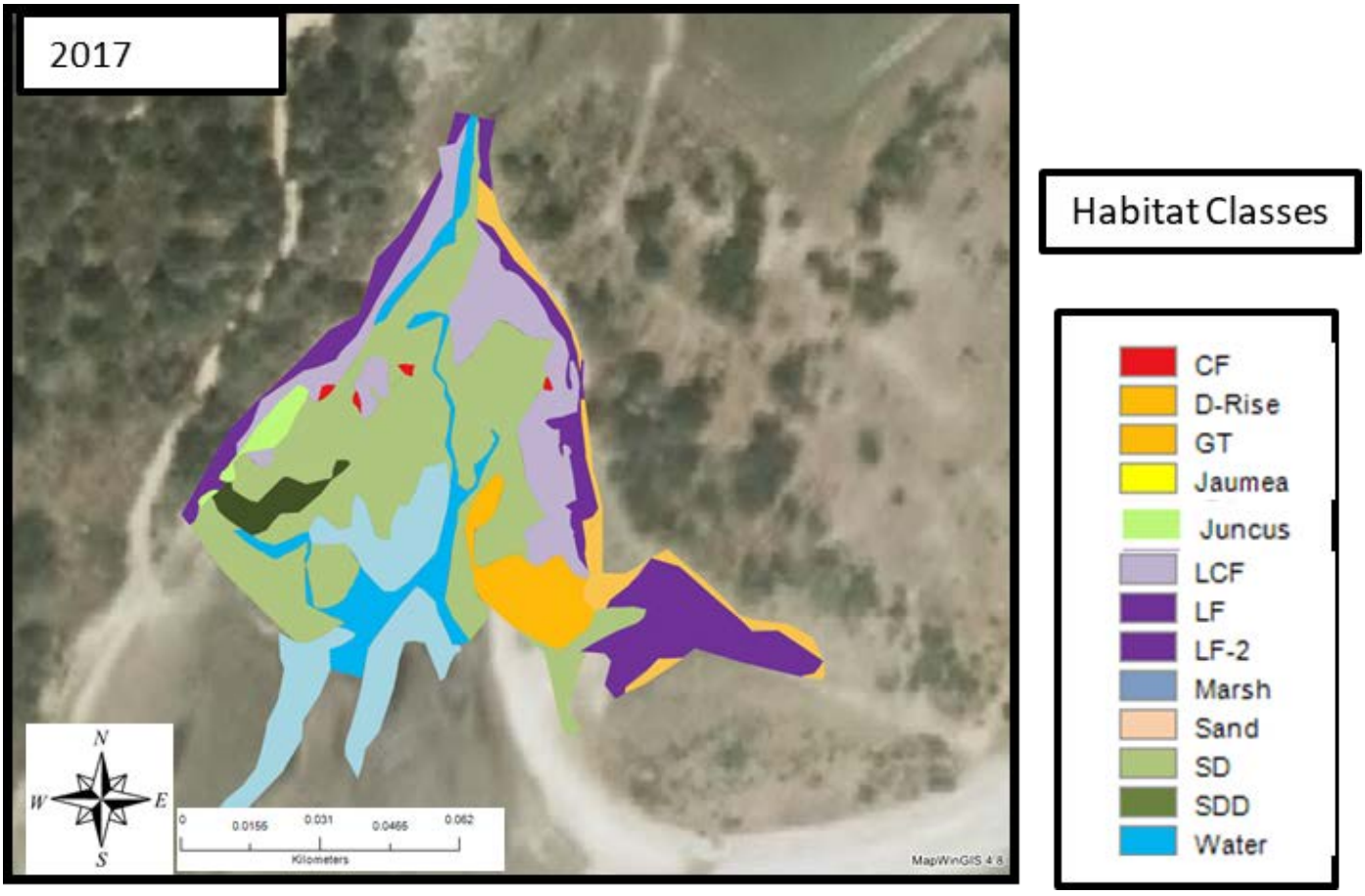

Figure 14. Habitat maps of the C. maritumus ssp. palustre population at the Coos Bay North Spit, protected area. Habitat codes are listed in Table 3. Major changes from previous years into 2017 include a decrease in the cover of both "Chloropyron Flat" (CF- red) and increases in the cover of "*Limonium Chloropyron* Flat, (LCF- lilac) and "*Limonium* Flat" (LF- dark purple), as well as the presence of "Juncus", representing the increased cover of the non-native *Juncus gerardii*.

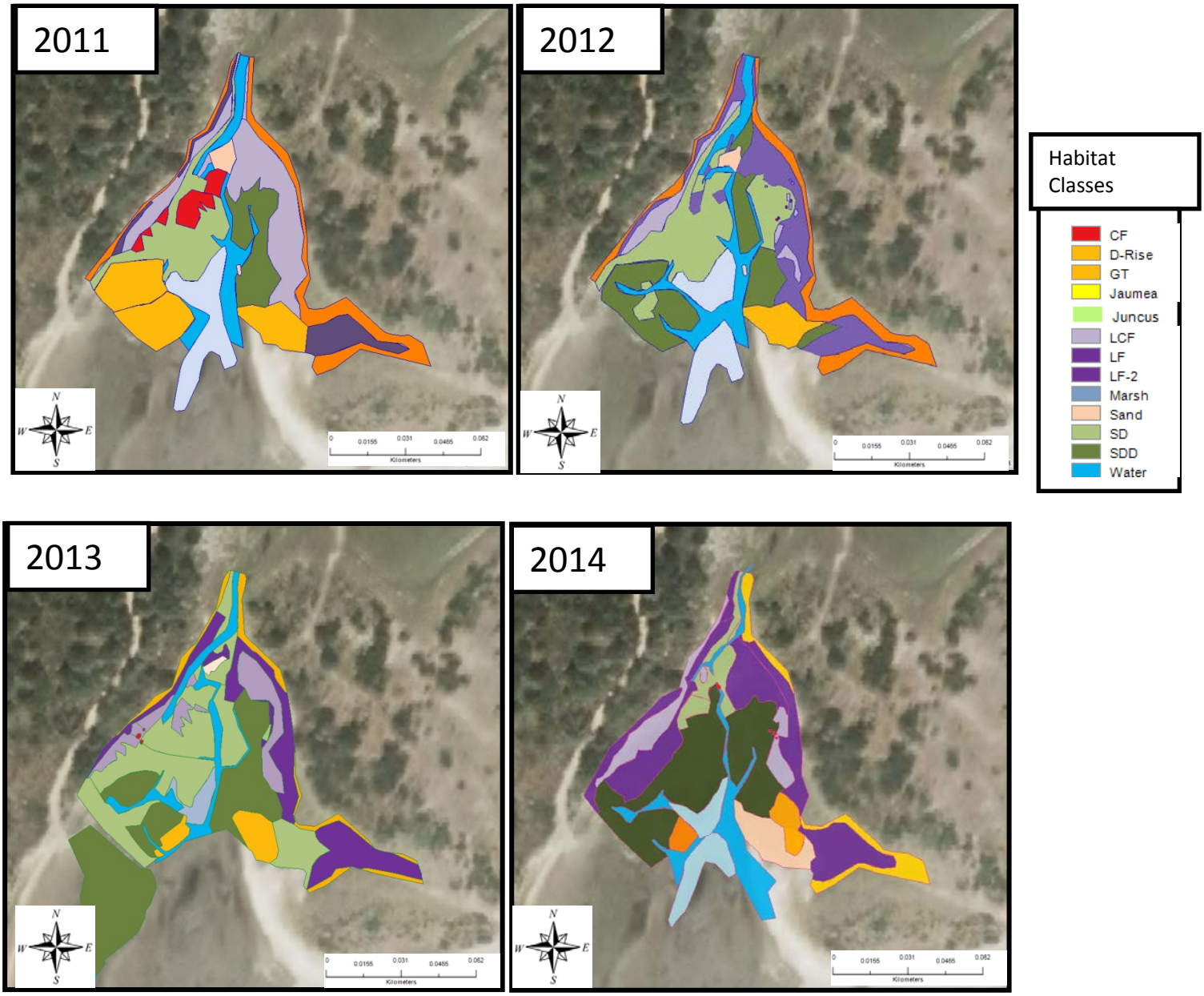

Figure 15. Habitat maps of the C. maritumus ssp. palustre population at the Coos Bay North Spit, were created in 2011-2017. Habitat codes are listed in Table 3. Major changes from 2011-2014 include a decrease in the cover of both "Chloropyron Flat" (CF- red) and increases in the cover of "*Limonium Chloropyron* Flat, (LCF- lilac) and "*Limonium* Flat" (LF- dark purple).

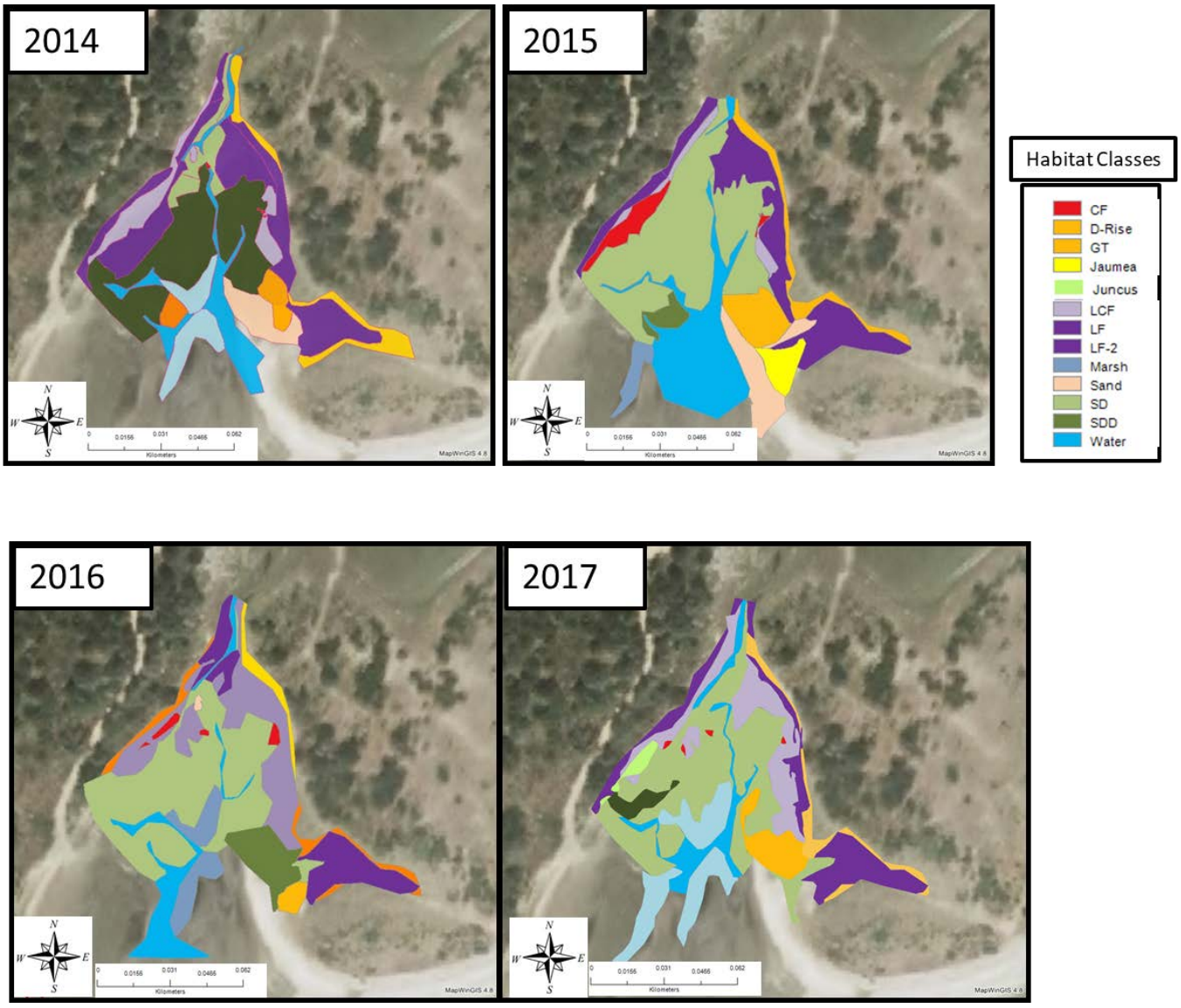

Figure 16. Habitat map of the C. maritumus ssp. palustre population at the Coos Bay North Spit, were created in 2011-2017. Habitat codes are listed in Table 3. Major changes from 2014 - 2017 include a decrease in the cover of both "Chloropyron Flat" (CF- red) and increases in the cover of "*Limonium Chloropyron* Flat, (LCF- lilac) and "*Limonium* Flat" (LF- dark purple).

Figure 17. 2013-2016 habitat maps for unprotected area. The remaining 'vegetated' area is classified as either SD or SDD based on habitat classes described in Table 3. Note that while the presence of C. *maritimum* ssp. *palustre* is quite patchy in this area, the location and extent of these patches have remained relatively stable over the course of this study.

Figure 18. Map of the unprotected area in 2017. The remaining 'vegetated' area is classified as either SD or SDD based on habitat classes described in Table 3.

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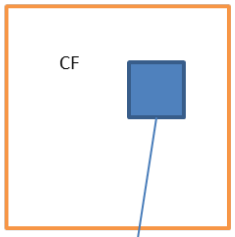
APPENDIX A. SAMPLING METHODOLOGY FOR *C. MARITIMUM SSP. PALUSTRE* AND *L. CALIFORNICUM.*

COMAPA/LICA Sub-sampling

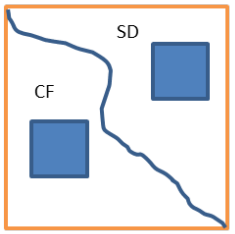
Transects are 20 m long
Sampled on the RIGHT side when looking from the origin to the end post.

- In each $1m^2$ you will assign a habitat class (See table on next page).
- In each $1m^2$ a 25 cm x 25 cm square will be subsampled for COMAPA and LICA . (Use the list of random coordinates to place the sub-sample frame.)
  - COMAPA- count number of individuals, branches and flowers.
  - LICA- count number of vegetative and reproductive rosettes

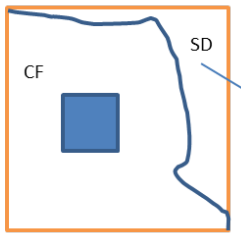


Subsample for COMAPA/LICA is placed using list of random coordinates.

- If there is more than one habitat class….



- (Example A) Two habitat types are present. Each area is large enough to accommodate the subsample frame.
- Do two subsamples. Use the random coordinates to guide your plot placement in BOTH habitat types. Skip coordinates that would place the frame in more than one habitat type.



Do not subsample in areas that cannot accommodate the sampling frame.

- (Example B) Two habitats are present, but only one area is large enough to accommodate the subsample frame.
- Do one subsample. In this example, the SD habitat can not accommodate the subsample frame, thus this portion is not subsampled.

Code	Habitat	Description
CF	Chloropyron flat	Chloropyron cover ≥ 50%
LCF	Limonium-Chloropyron flat	Limonium, Chloropyron codominant
LF	Limonium flat	Limonium cover ≥ 50%
GT	Grass transition	Differentiated by presence of Ammophila or Leymus, marks transition into small stabilized dune habitat. Some Chloropyron present but only in trace amounts. This is the absolute upper boundary of COMAPA habitat.
SD	Salicornia depression	Salicornia dominant species; area of higher water during the tide. Differs from waterway by abundant Salicornia, and little to no bare sand.
SDD	Salicornia-Distichlis depression	Salicornia dominant, but Distichlis cover ≥ 25%
Sand	Sand	Highest reach of the tide, but water does not linger here for long. Some COMAPA in trace amounts.
Junc	*Juncus gerardii* in flats	*Juncus gerardii* cover greater than 10%. Commonly with *Jaumea carnosa*. As of 2017 only present on the southwest portion of the protected area. This habitat class was added in 2017.
Waterway	Waterway	Other plants may be here, but not appropriate habitat for COMAPA. Various courses throughout entire area, usually adjacent to SD, SDD.
D-Rise	Distichlis rise	Small hill, Distichlis dominated, with minor patches of Jaumea carnosa nearest to the ocean.
Marsh	Marshy area	Marshy area dominated by Scirpus sp., area inundated by tides.

2015 COMAPA/LICA transect orientation (not to scale, for reference only)
Always monitor on the RIGHT side of the transect

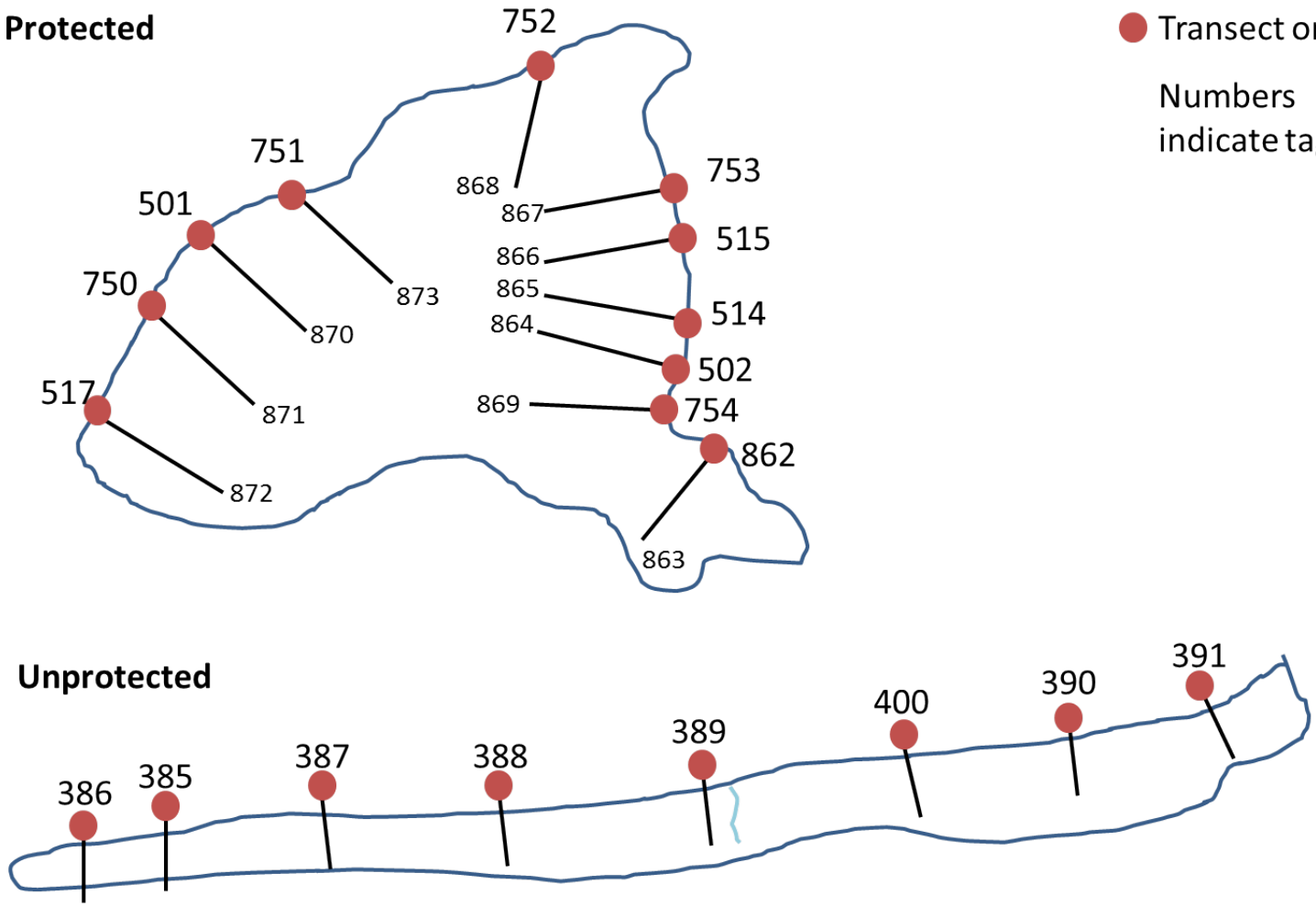


Figure 19. Schematic diagram (not to scale) of transects in both the protected and unprotected areas as of 2015.

COMAPA species ID cheatsheet

Ammophila arenaria-
European beachgrass

Festuca rubra

Limonium californicum

Chenopodium album

Hordeum jubatum

Plantago maritima

Cuscuta pacifica on
Salicornia depressa

Jaumea carnosa

Puccinellia pumila

Distichlis spicata

Leymus mollis-
American dunegrass

Spergularia macrotheca

Triglochin maritima