

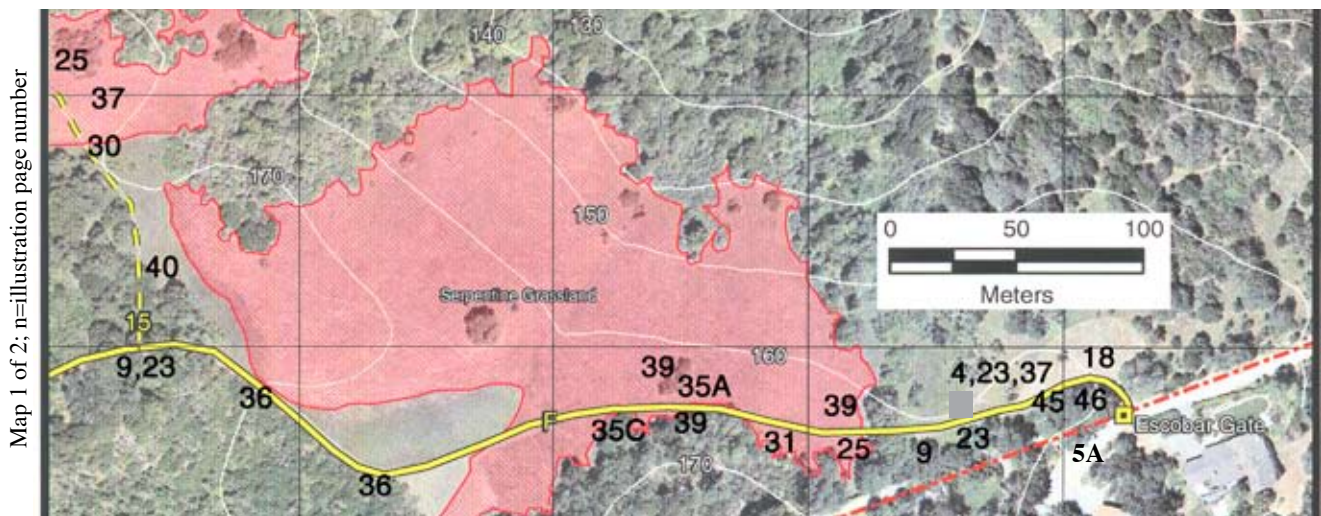
## Escobar Gate Area Grasses Part I: Native Grasses

vers 2 March 10, 2006

Native grasses grow in all preserve plant communities, and some are readily identifiable throughout much of the year. Native and naturalized grasses are about 12% of Preserve plant species; 48% are native. Look for native grasses:

- along trails and roads through both woodland and chaparral, or near their margins
- chaparral bare zones, and other areas of rabbit-rodent-deer concentration
- trail and road cuts exposing bedrock or thin soils (lithosoils)
- mowed trail and road right of ways, including the fire truck turn-around areas, in non-serpentine grassland
- rocky places and thin soils in non-serpentine grassland
- summer fog-drip zone under oaks in non-serpentine grassland
- vernal-wet places, seeps
- north-facing slopes
- serpentine

In the map areas designated serpentine grassland, the following are widespread: *Elymus multisetus* (big squirelltail), *Koeleria macrantha* (junegrass), *Nassella pulchra* (purple needlegrass), and one-sided bluegrass (*Poa secunda*). Abundance varies among species and by location and year from occasional individuals to small stands. Two naturalized grasses are also widespread in our serpentine: *Bromus hordeaceus* [13] and *Lolium multiflorum* [33]. *Elymus glaucus* (blue wildrye) is common in woodland and on brushy slopes and grassy areas. *Bromus carinatus* (California brome) is also common in similar habitats, often in company of blue wildrye. Other natives are less widespread, but may be locally abundant (especially *Festuca californica* on the north-facing mesic slope below trail 4).



*Agrostis hallii* (Hall's agrostis), edge of chaparral and woodland, intergrades with *A. pallens* [5A]

*Bromus carinatus* (California brome), common in woodland and on brushy and grass-covered slopes, often in company of blue wildrye [9]

*Danthonia californica* (California wild oatgrass), mesic sites in grassland, particularly trampled or mowed areas, occasional on serpentine [18]

*Elymus glaucus* (blue wildrye), common in woodland and on brushy slopes and grassy areas [23]

*Elymus multisetus* (big squirelltail), serpentine, occasional elsewhere [25]

*Hordeum brachyantherum* ssp. *californicum* (meadow barley), vernal-wet areas [30]

*Koeleria macrantha* (junegrass), in serpentine and also grassland/chaparral margins, occasional elsewhere [31]

*Melica californica* (California melic), occasional in serpentine grassland, especially rocky outcrops [35A]

*Melica torreyana* (Torrey's melic), fairly common in wide range of habitats including rocky serpentine, edges of chaparral, oak woodland, redwoods [illus. 35C]

*Nassella lepida* (foothill needlegrass), chaparral margins, oak woodland, common in scrub/grassland ecotones [36]

*Nassella pulchra* (purple needlegrass), widespread in full sun or part-sun, grassland and chaparral [37]

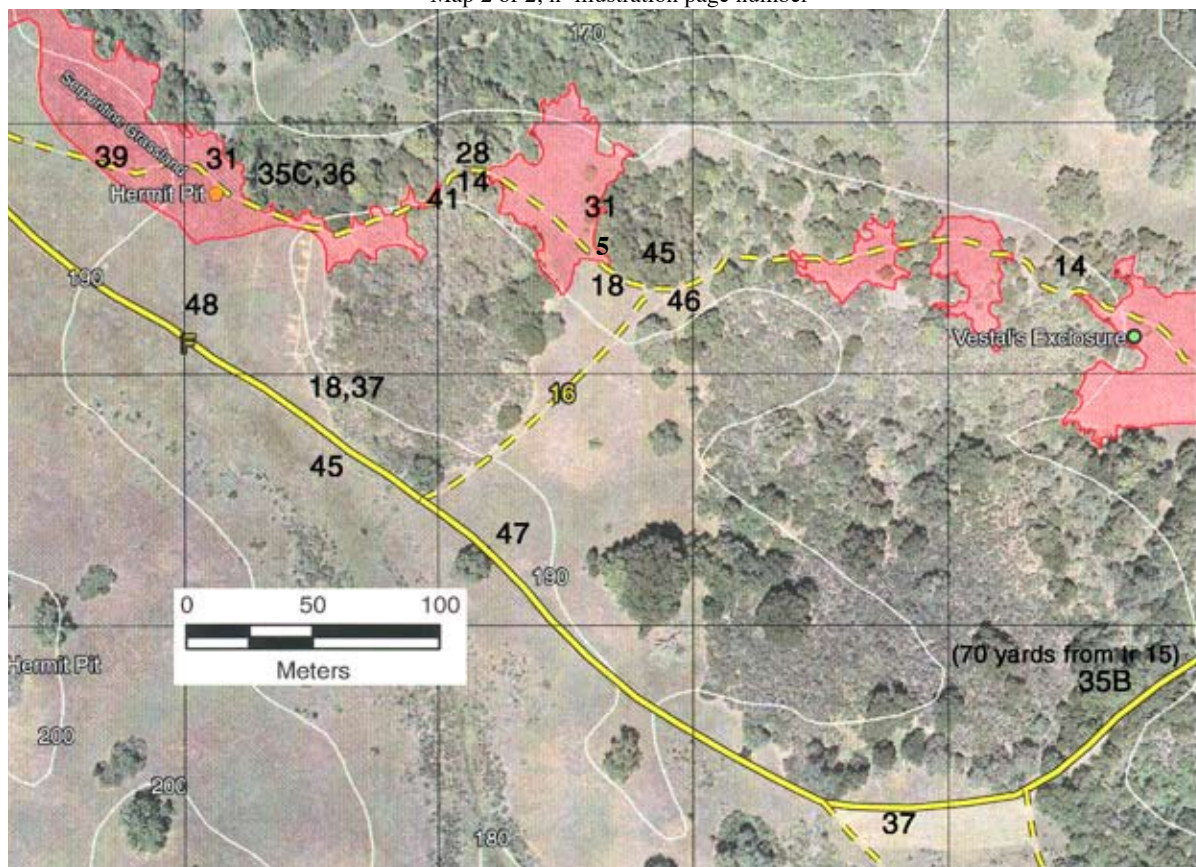
*Poa secunda* (one-sided bluegrass), common in serpentine and occasional rocky annual grassland [39]

*Trisetum canescens* (tall trisetum), wooded areas [40]

### Juncaceae

*Juncus occidentalis* (western rush), grassland and grassy slopes [45]

*Luzula comosa* (common wood rush), common in grasslands and shaded slopes [46]



- Agrostis pallens* (leafy bentgrass), widespread in shaded margins of woodland and scrub [5]  
*Bromus carinatus* (California brome), common in woodland and on brushy and grass-covered slopes, often in company of blue wildrye [9]  
*Bromus laevipes* (woodland brome), occasional in shaded woodland [14]  
*Danthonia californica* (California wild oatgrass), mesic sites in grassland, particularly trampled or mowed areas, occasional on serpentine [18]  
*Festuca californica* (California fescue), north-facing slopes in oak woodland [28]  
*Koeleria macrantha* (junegrass), serpentine and grassland/chaparral margins, occasional elsewhere [31]  
*Melica californica* (California melic), occasional in serpentine grassland, especially rocky outcrops [35A]  
*Melica imperfecta* (small-flowered melic), open woods, edges of chaparral [35B]  
*Melica torreyana* (Torrey's melic), fairly common in wide range of habitats including rocky serpentine, edges of chaparral, oak woodland, redwoods [35C]  
*Nassella lepida* (foothill needlegrass), chaparral margins, oak woodland, common in scrub/grassland ecotones [illus. 36]  
*Nassella pulchra* (purple needlegrass), widespread in full sun or part-sun, grassland and chaparral [37]  
*Poa secunda* (one-sided bluegrass), common in serpentine [39]  
*Trisetum canescens* (tall trisetum), wooded areas [40]  
*Vulpia microstachys* var. *pauciflora* (common hairyleaf fescue), serpentine and rocky grassland [41]

#### Juncaceae

- Juncus bufonius* idem. (toad rush), disturbed areas [47]  
*Juncus occidentalis* (western rush), grassland and grassy slopes [45]  
*Juncus xiphiodies* (iris-leaved rush), seeps and vernal-wet areas [48]  
*Luzula comosa* (common wood rush), common in grasslands and shaded slopes [46]

**Natives grasses in vicinity not covered by maps; see <http://jrpbgrassess.blogspot.com/> for locations**



- Agrostis microphylla* (small-leaved bent grass), vernal-wet areas (trail 9 at serpentine/chert contact) [4]  
*Deschampsia danthonioides* (annual hairgrass), vernal-wet areas (trail 9 at serpentine/chert contact) [19]  
*Deschampsia elongata* (slender hairgrass), moist areas in partial shade (Road D) [21]  
*Elymus glaucus* x *E. multisetus*, natural hybrid (near intersection trail 9 and Rd. F)  
*Phalaris californica* (California canary grass), seeps and vernal-wet areas (trail 10; east margin serpentine) [34]  
*Vulpia microstachys* var. *ciliata* (fescue), serpentine (opposite 9 and Rd F intersection) [41]