Removing jubata grass on Wildcat Cliffs requires the use of ropes and rappelling techniques normally used in high-angle rescue efforts. Once anchor points have been identified, an area can be cleared to make room for the anchor team and its operations. Anchor systems are constructed using suitable trees or shrubs, or by installing a set of pickets. Once the anchor, mainline and belay systems are constructed and inspected for safety, technicians rappel over the cliffs with backpack sprayers. After spraying the jubata grass with herbicide, the technicians contact the anchor team by radio when they are ready to move to another section.

**Result:**
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**Challenge:**
In the late 1990s, park officials spotted an invasive weed called jubata grass (*Cortaderia jubata*) spreading across large parts of the coastal scrub and chaparral areas of the park. Originally introduced into the U.S. as an ornamental plant, jubata grass is now a widespread problem in the area. Since that time, the park has worked diligently to eliminate this exotic, invasive grass and the closely related pampas grass.

**Solution:**
To combat the weed, volunteers and park staff removed more than 19,000 jubata grass plants from about 32,000 acres of land, controlling the invader in most of the park. However, treatment of the largest remaining jubata grass population in Point Reyes proved to be a daunting task. This population was found on steep, crumbling slopes 300 to 600 feet above the Pacific Ocean at a site known as “Wildcat Cliffs.” Access to the weeds was further complicated by the need to hike treatment equipment and materials a distance of three miles to the site.

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