

Natural Resource Partners

Preservation, advocacy, restoration and stewardship are the guidelines of the Department's natural resource partners. These organizations work with the Department to identify and safeguard natural resources within the department's control. The following is a representative sampling of Natural Resource Partners and is not purported to be a complete list.

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California Invasive Plant Council

Projects & Programs

The California Invasive Plant Council's (Cal-IPC) mission is to protect California wildlands from invasive plants through restoration, research and education.

Cal-IPC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization governed by a board of directors who work with staff on programs and strategic direction. Membership includes public and private land managers, ecological consultants and researchers, planners, volunteer stewards, and concerned citizens. Allied invasive plant councils exist in many other states, though Cal-IPC has the largest membership.

Benefits to California State Parks

Cal-IPC works closely with agencies, industry and other nonprofit organizations to identify areas of infestation and develop appropriate removal plans.

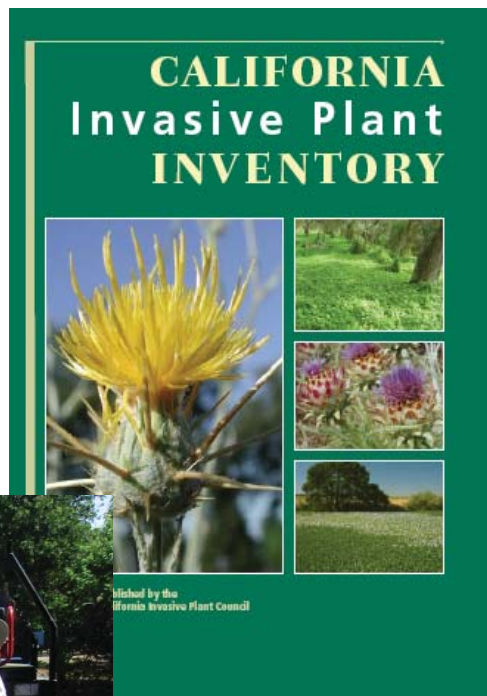
When Year-round

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California Native Plant Society

Projects and Programs

Originally formed in 1965 in the East Bay region, the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to all. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking, and gardening. CNPS chapter projects include plant sales, trips, demonstration gardens, speaker programs, weed removal, conservation projects, rare plant monitoring, plant community sampling, and educational outreach.

Benefits to California State Parks

The Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area staff is currently working with CNPS on an interpretation plan that will be part of the park's Environmental Training Center. The CNPS role is to provide technical assistance on the care of various plants at the facility, and to assist in the creation and development of educational institutions with projects and programs at the facility.

When

Project specific

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Plan for the Environmental Training Center at Prairie City SVRA

Desert Protective Council

Projects and Programs

The purpose of the Desert Protective Council is to promote, celebrate and protect the natural and cultural wonders of California's southwest deserts through education, advocacy and science.

Benefits to California State Parks

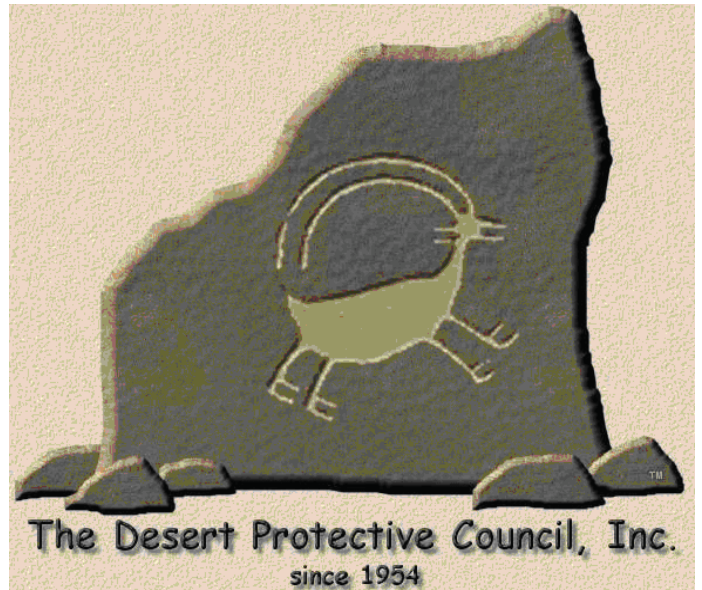
The Desert Protective Council is partnered with Ocotillo Wells SVRA on the Native Plant Garden and a new nature trail.

When

Project driven

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Native Plant Garden, Ocotillo Wells SVRA

InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council

Projects and Programs

The InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is comprised of 10 federally recognized Northern California tribes with direct ties to the Sinkyone region. The Council is working to reestablish indigenous Indian stewardship within the Sinkyone region of Northern California through cultural land conservation, habitat rehabilitation, and traditional resource management. The Council established the 3,845-acre InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness, the first of its kind in the country, to support and sustain local traditional Indian cultural land use, and to restore and protect the Sinkyone's cultural-natural resources and wilderness values for present and future generations of indigenous Indian peoples. Council project areas include cultural resource protection, conservation planning, salmon stream restoration, watershed rehabilitation, and education. The InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness is located adjacent to and east of the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.

Benefits to California State Parks

The Council and State Parks work cooperatively to address mutual concerns relating to natural and cultural resource protection and public recreation within the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park and the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness land. The Council has secured funding support for Sinkyone State Park projects and contributes to cultural interpretation/ education programs within the North Coast Redwoods District. With the assistance of the North Coast Redwoods District, the Council is developing public access, low-impact campgrounds and trails on the InterTribal land that will link directly to the Lost Coast Trail in the adjacent Sinkyone State Park. The Council also conducted a training program for tribal heavy equipment operators who assisted with the decommissioning of abandoned logging roads in the Sinkyone State Park. The Council was extensively involved in all phases of the General Plan process for the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, which the State Parks Commission approved on November 3, 2006.

When Year-round

Contact Information

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(Please call for email and fax information)



Chon-te-as-cho (California Condor). Drawing by Godfrey John, Jr. © by InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council

Mill Creek Advisory Committee

Projects and Programs

The purpose of the Mill Creek Advisory Committee is to advise the California Department of Parks and Recreation on the development and implementation of interim and long-term management plans or General Plan for the Mill Creek property adjacent to Del Norte Coast Redwoods and Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Parks consistent with the primary goal for the property, which is to restore late seral forest characteristics and associated natural functions that maximize benefits to the salmonid species of its streams and wildlife associated with late seral forest. The Committee also seeks funding to implement interim and long-term management plans for the property.

Benefits to California State Parks

The Mill Creek Advisory Committee promotes synergy of local and regional support for the Mill Creek property. Members of Committee include the Save-the-Redwoods League, county representatives, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Smith River Alliance, the Coastal Conservancy, the State Department of Fish & Game, the National Park Service, and other organizations and agencies interested in the Mill Creek property.

When Year-round

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Mill Creek Property

Partners in Flight

Projects and Programs

Partners in Flight (PIF) is a cooperative effort involving partnerships among federal, state and local government agencies, philanthropic foundations, professional organizations, conservation groups, industry, the academic community and private individuals. PIF emphasizes conservation of land bird species not covered by existing conservation initiatives. The California Partners in Flight (CalPIF) prepares Bird Conservation Plans for the major California habitat types to set conservation priorities and specific habitat management recommendations that can be used and implemented in the field by both government land managers and private landowners. These practical recommendations can be incorporated in resource management plans and development plans.

Benefits to California State Parks

California State Parks field staff is encouraged to use the PIF products and include bird conservation in their project planning. They are kept informed of PIF meetings, products, information and references through the Natural Resources Division newsletter. PIF representatives have also made presentations at Natural Resources training sessions to introduce field staff to the effort.

When Year-round

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Photos: G.Woods, www.woodshots.com



Partners of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Projects & Programs

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) is a Federally protected marine area offshore of California's central coast. Stretching from Marin to Cambria, the MBNMS encompasses a shoreline length of 276 miles and 5,322 square miles of ocean, extending to an average distance of 30 miles from shore. At its deepest point, the MBNMS reaches down 10,663 feet (more than two miles). It is our nation's eleventh Marine Sanctuary and its largest- larger than Yosemite or Yellowstone National Parks. Resource protection activities use a variety of means to reduce or prevent detrimental human impacts, including collaborative planning efforts, regulations and permits, emergency response activities, enforcement and education. Education and outreach is used as a critical element in enhancing understanding and stewardship of this national treasure, ranging from public events and interactive teacher workshops to extensive written materials.

Benefits to California State Parks

Sanctuary research and monitoring programs evaluate the status and health of marine species, habitats and ecosystems, provide critical information to resource managers, and coordinate activities with the array of world-class research institutions in the region. The Sanctuary encompasses several districts of California State Parks. State Parks serves on the Sanctuary's Advisory Council, along with other state and federal departments, non-profits and business representatives.

When

Year-round

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Big Sur Coast

Partners of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

Projects and Programs

The Tijuana River Estuarine Research Reserve is one of 27 Research Reserves in the United States. Each reserve is managed by a state agency in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Tijuana River facility is managed by California State Parks with essential support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (a non-profit partner). Programs include estuarine research, public education, salt marsh protection/restoration and oversight of development and zoning of sensitive estuarine lands on both sides of the United States/Mexico border.

Benefits to California State Parks

Estuary staff, dedicated volunteers, students and other interested agencies do a great deal of research, restoration and monitoring at the Tijuana Estuary. Their experience and the information and data they gather will lead to future projects as well as a better understanding of estuaries and how to enhance them throughout the biogeographic region from Point Conception, California to San Quintin, Mexico. This 600 mile coastline includes 32 units of the California State Park System.

When

Year-round

Contact Information

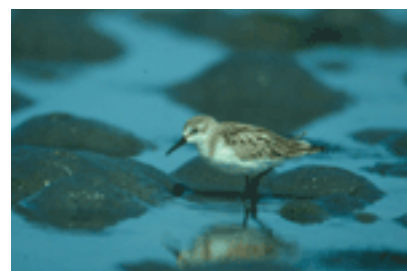
Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Assoc.
708a Seacoast Dr.
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Tijuana Slough NWR
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Phone: 619 575-2704
www.fws.gov/sandiegorefuges/Tijuana.htm

Estuarine Reserves Division, N/ORM5
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NOAA Ocean Service, 1305 East West Highway
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<http://nerrs.noaa.gov>



Tour group at Tijuana Estuary



Santa Lucia Conservancy

Projects and Programs

The Santa Lucia Conservancy's mission is to conserve and sustain the Santa Lucia Preserve, a unique California Central Coast landscape, by implementing a model of compatible development and sustainable conservation where natural landscapes are protected and restored for Santa Lucia Preserve residents and all future generations. The Santa Lucia Preserve is located north of Big Sur, and south and east of the Carmel Valley.

Interpretive programs provide opportunities for residents and local youth and adult groups to explore the natural landscape and to learn about its unique resources. Cooperative programs with other conservation and research organizations, as well as scholastic institutions, provide opportunities for scientific study that are mutually beneficial.

Santa Lucia Conservancy's conservation programs are broadly defined by four categories: natural resource monitoring, natural resource management, habitat restoration, and scientific research. Each category encompasses tasks that are essential to accomplish its mission to conserve and sustain the Santa Lucia Preserve and to fulfill goals and objectives related to ensuring biological conservation and sustainability, based on sound science.

Benefits to California State Parks

The Santa Lucia Conservancy owns and manages land adjacent to Garrapata State beach and Point Lobos State Reserve. The Conservancy shares natural resource management techniques and research results with State Park staff.

When Year-round

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Photo: Santa Lucia Conservancy

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

Projects and Program

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP) is a broad-based partnership, chaired by the Resources Agency and supported by the State Coastal Conservancy that has public agencies, non-profits, scientists, and local communities working cooperatively to acquire and restore rivers, streams, and wetlands in coastal southern California. The SCWRP's geographic scope is from Point Conception in Santa Barbara County to the international border with Mexico. Using a non-regulatory approach and an ecosystem perspective, SCWRP partners work together to identify wetland acquisition and restoration priorities, prepare plans for priority sites, pool funds to undertake projects, implement priority plans, and oversee post-project maintenance and monitoring.

The goal of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project is to accelerate the pace, the extent, and the effectiveness of coastal wetland restoration through developing and implementing a regional prioritization plan for the acquisition, restoration, and enhancement of Southern California's coastal wetlands and watersheds.

Benefits to California State Parks

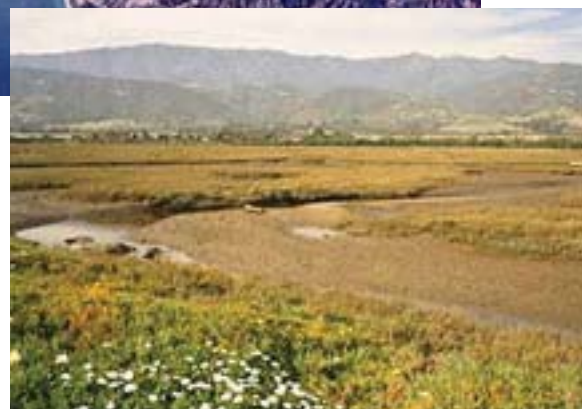
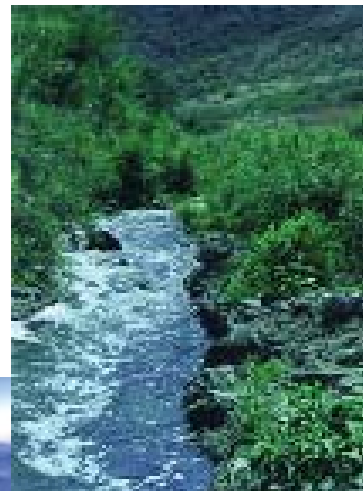
Cooperation with like-minded entities aids California State Parks in the preservation and restoration of wetland areas.

When

Year-round

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Top to bottom:
Arroyo Conejo at Hill Canyon-Calleguas
Creek Watershed
Ventura County Watershed
Carpinteria Salt Marsh
Photos: SCWRP

The Dunes Collaborative

Projects and Programs

The Dunes Collaborative partnership is collaboration between federal, state, private, and non-profit organizations committed to restoration of coastal dune habitats, recovery of threatened and endangered species, and the provision of quality visitor experiences of the unique and fragile ecosystem of Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. The partnership was established in 1998 and is funded by a \$9 million endowment.

Benefits to California State Parks

The Dunes Collaborative works to identify restoration, recreation, and educational needs in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes complex and to allocate funds to enhance these efforts. Identified priority projects include: controlling the spread of non-native invasive plant species; recovering rare plant populations; improving and protecting sensitive coastal habitats and listed species; and enhancing visitor experiences through education, interpretation and visitor services in the dunes. State Parks has benefited directly by being part of an interpretive master plan for the dunes, which include Pismo State Beach and all of Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area. This master plan will greatly assist in educating the public about state parks within the dune complex, while protecting the resources and providing recreational opportunities. The plan provides oversight for 17,000 acres of coastal dunes by a very diverse management group, each member providing their own unique recreational, educational and interpretive opportunities for the public and retaining a consistent message of stewardship.

When

Year-round

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Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes

University of California and California State University

Projects and Programs

The University of California and the California State University science programs conduct natural resource research projects, primarily related to wildlife habitat, each year in the State Park System. Año Nuevo Island Reserve, a University of California natural reserve located within Año Nuevo State Reserve, has been the site of northern elephant seal research since 1970.

Benefits to California State Parks

An average of 100 research projects are in progress at state park units each year. Ninety percent of these projects are conducted by University of California and California State University graduate students, who share their research results with California State Parks. The department also co-hosts several symposiums each year with these students to showcase their projects. Recent symposium topics have included genetics, invertebrates and evolution.

When Year-round

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Please contact individual California State University Science Departments for information on their projects within CSP.



Northern Elephant Seals, Año Nuevo State Reserve