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POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE ASSOCIATION

OUR MISSION

Founded in 1964, Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) partners with the National Park Service to create opportunities for all people to experience, enhance, and preserve Point Reyes National Seashore for present and future generations.

OUR VISION

As a national leader in coastal conservation and environmental education, we transform park visitors into park stewards.

Dear Friends,

Point Reyes National Seashore Association is resilient. Akin to when disturbances happen in an ecosystem, we often don't know how a place or organization will be changed until time has passed. Over the last year we've partnered with the National Park Service to study the aftereffects of the 2020 Woodward Fire and adapt to shifting pandemic protocols to meet the needs for outdoor recreation, human connection, and connection to natural places. We've all needed a place that both soothes and inspires during such a prolonged and stressful time.

Organizationally, thanks to the incredible support of our members and volunteers and the changing pandemic protocols, we have expanded our education offerings and increased our investment in conservation work. Although our work has also shifted, many aspects are now stronger than before the pandemic – particularly in the areas of education where we have piloted our new *Youth in Parks* program to meet the call for a more inclusive park.

At the heart of our work is our relationship with the National Park Service and our efforts to connect a broader community to the Seashore. Over the last year, we've reconsidered what it means to be a park partner and how we can use our unique connection to the resources of Point Reyes to highlight new voices, stories, and projects. Our community building, education, and conservation work are all intertwined—one could not function without the other—but in the following pages you'll find overviews of our work within each of these three pillars.

Thank you for supporting our vision of a park for all during this time of change.

Warmly,



Donna Faure, Executive Director



Post-Woodward Fire regeneration on Sky Trail

EDUCATION



“The youth we serve do not have the leisure of driving out to the coast, but through partnering with PRNSA we are able to give our teens the gift of the Seashore.”

-Tina Baldy, Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance (Youth in Parks Partner)

2021 Summer Backpacking Program



Birding Field Institute Class, photo by Bill Helsel



Youth in Parks program with YES Nature to Neighborhoods

BUILDING A PARK FOR ALL

At the heart of PRNSA’s work is a commitment to community and park connections, which came to a halt with the first shelter-in-place announcements. As vaccines became available and policies changed, we were excited to welcome youth and families back to the Seashore. However, among discussions of what future programming could look like, we recognized a gap in our reach to underserved youth, especially those most impacted and isolated by the pandemic. In response, the *Youth in Parks* program was piloted in early 2021 alongside six youth-serving organizations to provide outdoor opportunities for learning, stewardship, self-discovery, and career paths to youth from local, marginalized communities.

Through the *Youth in Parks* program we’ve provided 34 days at Point Reyes for nearly 214 youth from around the Bay Area. Equally important, we are also learning from our partner organizations about how to make our park as welcoming as possible. Over the last year we’ve grown our *Youth in Parks* community from six to thirteen partners. We are committed to working with each partner throughout the year to provide deep and repeat outdoor exploration and science experiences that not only give youth the chance to build on environmental education concepts and exposure to career paths, but to also, bit-by-bit make this place their own.

In addition to *Youth in Parks*, two entirely new programs were introduced at the Seashore this fiscal year. The first is the *Woodward Fire Photo Monitoring Project* that engages the community to help gather information on post-fire regrowth at Point Reyes. Five camera stations



were installed throughout the Woodward Fire recovery area that have allowed visitors to take photos with their own devices and upload them to a community science database to create a virtual time-lapse of burn-zone regrowth. The second program introduced is the *Environmental Education Intern* position. This year we hired our first Education Intern who helped the team with curriculum development and leading programs at the Seashore.

With the launch of the vaccine in early 2021, we also reinvented some pre-pandemic programs and developed new education opportunities for the community. Our *Field Institute* classes and *Get to the Point* events were offered in small-group, outdoor or virtual settings. In total we offered 60 *Field Institute* classes—on topics ranging from birding to forest bathing—and four *Get to the Point* events—including whale watching and a meteor shower gathering.



The *UC Climate Stewards* and *UC California Naturalists* programs, hosted in collaboration with *UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resource*, also returned to Point Reyes and saw 20 and 35 participants respectively. Finally, our Summer Camp, which was canceled in 2020, was redesigned to accommodate dynamic pandemic policies. Instead of our usual 400+ participant camp model, we opted for a series of small backpacking trips through the park.

CONSERVATION

“PRNSA funds often support park programs when NPS staff are not available. This year, a short-term PRNSA intern helped us with invasive plant surveying, re-seeding, and photo documentation.”

– Ellen Hamingson, NPS Restoration Biologist



PRNSA Vegetation Technician in the field, photo by Pusher Inc.

REGENERATION THROUGH CONSERVATION

The Woodward Fire, which burned in Point Reyes for five months, considerably altered conservation projects in the park. For quite some time, large sections of the Seashore weren't accessible to anyone except those fighting the fire, and staff had to alter work schedules and projects accordingly. By the time that firefighters extinguished the final flames in early 2021, our conservation funding and work were already picking back up with new projects and research assessing fire management, species, marine ecosystems, and more.

This year, we funded nearly 10,000 hours of conservation work. Our team of wildlife technicians, conservation interns, and science communicators were in the field with NPS biologists day after day to monitor key species and habitats at Point Reyes.



Nesting western snowy plover, photo by Matthew Lau (NPS)

This includes western snowy plovers, northern spotted owls, elephant seals, coho salmon, dune habitat, and more. This work is essential to ensure the long-term preservation of the Seashore.

In addition to direct staff and financial support, PRNSA worked to enhance systems and infrastructure that support natural and cultural resources in the park. We supported

the final steps of renovation at the Tomales Bay Marine Station with \$47,600 of direct funds. This project has expanded office space, housing, and boat access for conservation staff, researchers, and interns. Similarly, PRNSA raised \$59,000 for the revitalization of the Morgan Horse Ranch to help rebuild the old perimeter fences and purchase two new horses—Gentry and Knight Hawk.



NPS Biologist surveys elephant seal, photo by Matthew Lau (NPS)

For the last nine years, PRNSA has also provided annual funds for a variety of Marine Science Grantees. This year, we supported the River Ecology Project and Dungeness Crab Vulnerability project. The River Ecology Project monitored the population demographics, health, prey species, and behavior of sea otters at 12 sites in Point Reyes. The Dungeness Crab Vulnerability project researched the distribution of crabs within Tomales Bay to understand how global change stressors impact species distribution and habitat use.

Coupled with marine ecology projects, PRNSA biological technicians and interns worked alongside NPS project managers on post-fire restoration projects – including invasive species removal and songbird monitoring – and a new two-year barred owl ARU project to monitor the presence of barred owls that often displace northern spotted owls as a result of food and nest competition. Both of these projects are ongoing as we move into the next fiscal year.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

“I am truly grateful that PRNSA runs these magical full moon member walks and I feel lucky to be part of them.”

-Kristen Breck, PRNSA member

Full Moon Member Hike on Limantour Beach

RECONNECTING IN COMMUNITY

Our work at PRNSA is for the community—of flora, fauna, park visitors, and supporters who love Point Reyes National Seashore. In 2020, pandemic and fire disrupted the peace of our park community. Endemic species lost their homes and were displaced by flames, and stay-at-home orders asked human visitors to distance themselves from the park. But with the rise in production and availability of Covid-19 vaccines at the start of 2021, our team had hopes for a year of reconnection.

Slowly and safely we began gathering in person at the park and we started this process with the return of our *Monthly Full Moon Member Hikes*. At the same time, we remained connected with our community through frequent newsletters and webinar sessions. As the year progressed we were flexible, shifting policies and class sizes accordingly. In total we held 10 in-person *Full Moon Member Hikes* and five online webinar sessions.

August marked the one-year anniversary of the Woodward Fire. With easing pandemic restrictions and the reopening of trails post-fire, we hosted a series of *Fire Ecology Walks* to highlight post-fire projects from funds raised during the 2020 virtual *Dinner on the Pacific Plate* event. Over the course of three weeks, we offered nine fire ecology hike opportunities at Bear Valley and Sky Trail for over 100 participants.

“I was the happiest I have been since covid began at Party on the Pacific Plate. I felt so much a part of something special.”

-Anonymous POPP Attendee



Party on the Pacific Plate event, photo by Paige Green Photography



Fire Ecology Walk

Mindful of pandemic risks, we decided to rethink our annual *Dinner on the Pacific Plate* fundraiser. Instead of large hiking groups and a big dinner under the tent, we opted for small-group guided excursions throughout the park followed by a picnic-themed cocktail reception featuring local food, drinks, and live music. With the help of our dedicated community of sponsors we raised \$330,000 to help fund our conservation, education, and community building work, which included \$75,900 to support the expansion of our new *Youth in Parks* program.

It's been wonderful to see our community come together as we all realize that our parks are more essential than ever to the health of our communities.

FISCAL YEAR APRIL 2021 - MARCH 2022	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUE, SUPPORT, AND GAINS			
Contributed Income	1,262,357	464,052	1,726,409
Earned Income	397,201	-	397,201
CARES Act Loan Forgiveness	150,000	-	150,000
In-Kind Contributions	25,208	-	25,208
Investment Income	4,904	-	4,904
Net Assets Released from Restriction	407,609	-407,609	-
Total Revenue, Support, and Gains	2,247,279	56,443	2,303,722
EXPENSES			
Education and Conservation Support	1,181,145	-	1,181,145
Management and General	140,147	-	140,147
Fundraising	445,160	-	445,160
Total Expenses	1,766,452	-	1,766,452
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS			
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	1,248,203	2,120,039	3,368,242
Change in Net Assets	480,827	56,443	537,270
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	1,729,030	2,176,482	3,905,512



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