

## COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

## FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060 (831) 454-3154 FAX: (831) 454-3128

AGENDA May 4, 2017 7:00 PM

Fifth Floor Conference Room, Room 510

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. ROLL CALL
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 5. PRESENTATIONS:
  - A. Ethan Rotman, California Dept of Fish and Wildlife Trout in the Classroom: Presentation and questions (25 minutes)
  - B. Riparian Corridor Enhancement Project Grant Proposal Kristen Kittleson (10 minutes)
- 6. PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMMISSIONERS (15 minutes)
- 7. BUSINESS MATTERS
  - A. Elect Vice Chair for remainder of term; Elect Chair and Vice Chair for upcoming year (10 minutes)
  - B. Discuss Public Grants Program priorities and scoring (30 minutes)
  - C. Discuss letter to the Board re: federal environmental regulations (10 minutes)
  - D. Discuss comment process for Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance EIR and consider sending letter to the Board recommending that FWAC comment to Planning Department (5 minutes)
  - E. Winter storms update (10 minutes)
- 8. STAFF REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE
  - A. Exploring New Horizons Annual Report
  - B. Fish and Game Commission Notices
    - A. Notice to Interested Parties re: Use of Dogs for Pursuit/Take of Mammals (3 notices)
    - B. Notice to Interested Parties re: Notice of Findings re: petition to list flat-tailed horned lizard as threatened or endangered
    - C. Notice to Interested Parties re: Central Valley Chinook Salmon Sport Fishing
    - D. Notice of Receipt of Petition to list Cascades frog as threatened or endangered
    - E. Notice of proposed regulatory actions re: upland game bird regulations
    - F. Notice of proposed regulatory action re: upland game bird regulations

### 10. ADJOURNMENT

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. The Planning Department Conference Room is located in an accessible facility. If you are a person with a disability and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting, please contact Kristen Kittleson at (831)454-3154 or TDD number (454-2123) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent free.



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Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

### **MINUTES**

Santa Cruz County Governmental Center Fifth Floor Santa Cruz, California

March 2, 2017

- 1. CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM
- 2. ROLL CALL.

Present: Commissioners Berry, Robin, Johnson, Baron, Noyes, Shikuma,

Maridon, Freeman Excused: Frediani Absent: Grant

- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Commissioner Shikuma made a motion to approve the December 1, 2016 minutes; Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. All aye, the motion passed.
- 4. PRESENTATIONS:
  - A. Jeff Gaffney, Director of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services, was unable to attend the meeting to present about the Open Space District.
- 5. PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS.
- 6. BUSINESS MATTERS
  - A. <u>Discuss Cannabis Ordinance Environmental Impact Report Scope.</u> The Planning Department released the Notice of Preparation for the Cannabis Ordinance EIR scope. Comments are due March 15, 2017. The scope was discussed, but since the commission advises the Board, the commission will not write a comment letter. Water Resources Program plans to make comments and will review past letters from the Commission to the Board on cannabis. Sandra Baron wrote a comment letter as an individual.
  - B. Discuss possible federal actions that impact the environment, including proposed bill to eliminate the EPA and discuss making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

    Commissioner Maridon made a motion to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending that they passa resolution stating their support for the Endangered Species Act and federal regulatory protections and to communicate the resolution to state and federal representatives. Commissioner Noyes seconded the motion. Commissioner Freeman suggested that the language "that impacts the fish and wildlife of Santa Cruz County" would

- be included. All aye, the motion passed. Staff and Chair Berry will draft the letter and resolution; Commissioner Freeman will review it.
- C. <u>Discuss topics for FWAC-Environment-Water Advisory Commissions coordination.</u> Chair Berry will be meeting with the chairs of the Commission on the Environment and the Water Advisory Commission in a few weeks.
- D. <u>Discuss Storm Season 2017.</u> Staff, commissioners and guests shared information on the Storm Season including flow records, road and infrastructure damage, and inputs of large wood.
- E. <u>Steelhead and Coho Salmon Update</u>. The weir on Scott Creek has not been fishing for most of January and February due to high flows. Jon Jankovitz, CDFW, reported that spawning crews have seen steelhead and redds in the upper watershed and tributaries. The steelhead fishing season closes March 7. Mr. Jankovitz continues to evaluate possible changest to the local fishing regulations.
- 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS. Becky Steinburner is concerned about stormwater runoff from the Aptos Village project into Trout Creek.
- 8. STAFF REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS.
- 9. CORRESPONDENCE
- 10. ADJOURNMENT 8:50 PM.

NOTE: The next meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2017. Submitted by K. Kittleson; Water Resources/Fish and Wildlife/2017 FWAC Meetings

## County of Santa Cruz Fish and Game Advisory Commission GRANT APPLICATION

### **GRANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

This information will not be posted on-line as part of the public notification process.

- A. Application Date \_\_April 26, 2017\_\_\_\_
- B. Name of organization or individual submitting the proposal

Environmental Health Division of Health Services Agency

C. Contact Person – Name, address, phone and email

John Ricker 701 Ocean Street, Room 312 Santa Cruz, CA 95062

D. Fund Recipient: Name on the check and mailing address:

**Environmental Health** 

E. Have you received a grant from the Fish and Game Advisory Commission previously?

yes

If you receive grant funding as a first-time applicant, the fund recipient will be required to register as a vendor with the County of Santa Cruz and to submit a W-9.

If you have received grant funding previously, you will need to either confirm that the name and address of the fund recipient is the same or you will need to resubmit a new W-9.

**NOTE:** If your request is approved for funding, you will be required to report back to the Commission with a ½ - 1 page summary of the project, including how the funds were expended and the success of the project. If the grantee submits a new request for funding, a progress or completion report must be submitted by November 15<sup>th</sup> of that year. If the grantee does not plan to request other funding, a progress or completion report must be completed within a year of receiving the funds.

## County of Santa Cruz Fish and Game Advisory Commission GRANT APPLICATION 2015

- Project name
   Riparian Corridor Enhancement Project
- 2. Amount of funding requested \$5,000

For each of the following sections, give a brief description:

## 3. Project Description

This project would purchase native, locally grown riparian plants to enhance riparian corridors on private property. Riparian plants would be given only to property owners who are interested in improving their riparian corridor habitat or improving bank protection over the long term. Owners would agree to plant and water plants for the first few years until they are well established. In addition, owners would be expected to change land management (for example, stop mowing or move development back) near the new plants to allow them to mature.

In Santa Cruz, fall and early winter are considered the best times to establish new plants. If approved, this project would provide funding to start the program in time for the Fall 2017 planting season.

## 4. Project objectives and goals

The goal of the project is enhance riparian habitat by providing native, locally grown riparian plants with planting and care instructions to streamside property owners. This project complements existing efforts to educate streamside property owners about riparian protection and new efforts to improve riparian habitats through voluntary or regulatory means.

The project is not intended to fully restore the riparian corridor on any specific property. The goal is to motivate streamside property owners to consider their land management and use within the protected riparian corridor and to provide an easy way to encourage riparian corridor enhancement. Many of the trees that fall within riparian areas will not be replaced by natural recruitment, so this project is an investment in long-term riparian habitat viability.

An added benefit of the program will be to introduce property owners to native plant nurseries. Since they will be required to pick up the plants, property owners will be exposed to the great variety of native plants available in Santa Cruz County.

### 5. Background and history of the problem

As part of the Stream Wood Program, the County's Fishery Resource Planner visits streamside properties where owners have concerns about fallen trees or stream wood. Many of these property owners are unaware that the County has a Riparian Corridor Protection Ordinance that protects 50' on either side of the bankfull channel. While addressing concerns about stream

wood, there are often opportunities to either replace the tree or trees that fell or to improve riparian corridor habitat by adding some vegetation, especially at the top of the bank when riparian habitat is lacking.

Over the past year, the County's Fishery Resource Planner has been asking property owners if they would be interested in either replacing the tree or trees that fell and/or enhancing the riparian corridor to provide habitat and long-term bank protection for their property. Several property owners expressed interest in participating in a project to either replacing trees or enhance the riparian corridor. The funding proposal is based on these interested property owners.

Riparian habitats in Santa Cruz County are often degraded in rural residential areas. These reduced riparian corridors often provide a bare minimum of habitat and protection for stream ecosystems. Many of these property owners are unaware of the County's ordinance and continue to use or expand pre-existing disturbance such as clearing, yard space, paths, gardens, driveways and more.

In addition, clearing and development of riparian areas can make the property more vulnerable to bank erosion. When one of the few remaining trees between the stream and the developed property falls, there are limited opportunities for natural recruitment that will replace that tree and the functions it provides.

Enhancing the riparian corridor will have multiple benefits to both streamside property owners and stream habitats. Riparian plants provide shade, organic material, and structure to the stream ecosystem. In addition, more robust riparian corridors provide a visual and physical buffer between residential use and the stream habitat which allows for natural processes such as the accumulation of stream wood and meandering to occur.

6. How will the project be accomplished (design specifications or plans, if applicable)

The County's Fishery Resource Planner will coordinate the project. Property owners from the Stream Wood Program will be contacted and informed about the project. Appropriate types and number of plants will be selected for each property. It's expected that property owners will elect to plant 2-12 plants on their property for this project. Depending on interest and locations, purchase orders will established at 2-4 local native plant nurseries. As a show of commitment to the project, property owners will be asked to pick up the plants at the nursery and send back photos showing the plants in the ground with a plan for caring for them.

Environmental Health staff will provide assistance by preparing mailing labels for sending out letters and with setting up Purchase Orders for the native plant nurseries.

7. Budget (include sufficient detail to explain use of grant monies). Specify if there are any sources of other funds committed to the proposed project.

Item	Funds	Match	Total
	Requested	Contribution	Amount
Project Coordination		\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Project Assistance		\$ 400	\$ 400
Riparian Plants	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000
Stream Care Guides and			
Mailings		\$ 100	\$ 100
TOTAL AMOUNTS	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,500	\$ 10,500

\$5,000 will provide about \$300 for 15-16 properties or \$200 for 25 properties. Depending on the interest, the project expects to enhance the riparian corridor on 15-20 properties.

## 8. Timeline for completion

The project is expected to take 18 months. The project will start in fall 2017 and is expected to be completed by January 2019. Depending on the interest, either the entire amount will be expended in the Fall 2017 or half will be expended in Fall 2017 and half in Fall 2018.

9. Background or history of your organization

Environmental Health has an extensive history of managing and completing grant projects

# Summary of Current Public Grants Program Policy Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission 24 April 2017

This is a collection of documents and policy statements 2009-2016 related to the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission's public Grants Program.

### These include:

- 1. Funding summary 2006-2016
- 2. 2016 Notice of Available Grant Funding
- 3. Current Letter that is sent out for grants on requirements for updates and completion reports
- 4. Statement on current proposal review and ranking policy
- 5. Policy statement from August 2009 on policy re: funding labor costs
- 6. Fish and Game Code 13103 which lists project types that qualify for funding

## 1. Funding Summary 2006-2016

From 2006 through 2016, the Commission funded a total of 96 projects with \$172,276.24, including:

- 8 habitat restoration or habitat research projects
- 53 Outreach and Education Projects
- 35 Other Projects including enforcement, native wildlife rescue, and conservation hatchery support

The Commission has received emails, letters or presentations reporting back on 85 of the 96 projects. Ten projects are currently outstanding, including the 9 projects from 2016-17, 1 project from 2014-15 and 1 project from 2011-12.

## 2. 2016 Notice of Available Grant Funding

## 2016 NOTICE OF AVAILABLE GRANT FUNDING

The Santa Cruz County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission is soliciting applications for its Public Grants Program. Grants are funded by fines and settlements collected for violations of California Fish and Game laws within Santa Cruz County.

There is a total of \$ 11,000 available for this year's grants program, with an additional \$4,000 available with Board approval. Awards are usually limited to \$1,000 to \$2,000 each, but larger requests will be considered.

## **FUNDING PRIORITIES:**

Benefits native fish and wildlife and habitats.

- Education programs for school age children related to fish and wildlife
- Support of California Fish and Game related law enforcement.

SELECTION CRITERIA: The highest consideration will be given to projects which:

- Benefits native, local wildlife species and habitats
- Provide a low cost/high benefit
- Proposals may include funding for labor costs.

## 3. Current letter that is sent out with the grant award

## **Public Grants Program Project Reporting**

Congratulations on receiving funding from the County of Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission.

## **Project Reporting**

You are required to submit a short written report (maximum length 1 page) about what your organization accomplished with the funding. This report is due no later than August 15, 2017 for inclusion with the September Commission meeting.

In addition, you are welcome to attend a commission meeting and report on the project. Contact staff if you are interested in providing a report at a commission meeting.

If your project is not complete by August 15, 2017, please submit an update report describing what has been accomplished and your timeline for completing the work. Failure to communicate with the commission may result in the loss of funding for future projects.

## 4. March 2012 - Project Review and Ranking Policy Statement

The Fish and Game Advisory Commission recommends projects that benefit native fish and wildlife, provide education programs for school age children related to fish and wildlife or support California Fish and Game law enforcement. The highest consideration is given to projects which provide a high benefit for a low cost and benefit native, local wildlife species.

The Commission reviews a written application and hears an oral presentation on each proposed project. Commissioners rank the projects from highest to lowest priority. The ranked scores for all commissioners are combined to create an overall ranked list. As the last step, the Commission goes through each project, by rank, and decides through

consensus if the project will receive full or partial funding. Commissioners do not vote on projects where they are the applicant.

## 5. August 2009 - Funding Policy Statement

County of Santa Cruz Fish and Wildlife Fund Funding Policy August 5, 2009 Prepared by Kristen Kittleson

The Fish and Game Advisory Commission (Commission) advises the Board of Supervisors on issues relating to fish and wildlife, and also recommends projects for funding with the county's portion of Fish and Game fine monies and judgments.

Previously, the Fish and Game Advisory Commission had an informal policy to not recommend funding for the cost of labor. This document includes a definition of labor and proposes an alternative policy that while the Fish and Game Advisory Commission may prefer to fund materials and equipment, there is no restriction on recommending funding for labor.

<u>Definition of Labor:</u> Labor is defined as the payment of people for work.

#### Labor includes

- physical labor such as in-stream habitat restoration and riparian restoration including non-native plant removal
- professional services to design, permit or manage projects, and for construction management or construction supervision.
- construction activities including operating heavy equipment, traffic control, or other construction related activities
- professional services for curriculum development, training and teaching
- fish and wildlife research.

## Arguments in support of funding labor

Not prohibited in the Fish and Game Code (13103) that describes appropriate expenditures from the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund.

Not mentioned in the Fish and Game Advisory Commission bylaws

The Fish and Game Advisory Commission has funded labor in the past associated with research (Sea Lion research) or professional design work (Valencia Creek Fish Ladder design funded by Stream Enhancement Fund).

## FISH AND GAME CODE

- 13103. Expenditures from the fish and wildlife propagation fund of any county may be made only for the following purposes:
- (a) Public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, consisting of supervised formal instruction carried out pursuant to a planned curriculum and aids to education such as literature, audio and video recordings, training models, and nature study facilities.
- (b) Temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.
- (c) Temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by the department as evidence.
- (d) Breeding, raising, purchasing, or releasing fish or wildlife which are to be released upon approval of the department pursuant to Sections 6400 and 6401 onto land or into waters of local, state, or federal agencies or onto land or into waters open to the public.
- (e) Improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, including, but not limited to, construction of fish screens, weirs, and ladders; drainage or other watershed improvements; gravel and rock removal or placement; construction of irrigation and water distribution systems; earthwork and grading; fencing; planting trees and other vegetation management; and removal of barriers to the migration of fish and wildlife.
- (f) Construction, maintenance, and operation of public hatchery facilities.
- (g) Purchase and maintain materials, supplies, or equipment for either the department's ownership and use or the department's use in the normal performance of the department's responsibilities.
- (h) Predator control actions for the benefit of fish or wildlife following certification in writing by the department that the proposed actions will significantly benefit a particular wildlife species.
- (i) Scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or governmental agencies, if approved by the department.
- (j) Reasonable administrative costs, excluding the costs of audits required by Section 13104, for secretarial service, travel, and postage by the county fish and wildlife commission when authorized by the county board of supervisors. For purposes of this subdivision, "reasonable cost" means an amount which does not exceed 3 percent of the average amount received by the fund during the previous three-year period, or three thousand dollars (\$3,000) annually, whichever is greater, excluding any funds carried over from a previous fiscal year.
- (k) Contributions to a secret witness program for the purpose of facilitating enforcement of this code and regulations adopted pursuant to this code.
- (1) Costs incurred by the district attorney or city attorney in investigating and prosecuting civil and criminal actions for violations of this code, as approved by the department.
- (m) Other expenditures, approved by the department, for the purpose of protecting, conserving, propagating, and preserving fish and wildlife.

## **DRAFT Score Sheet (April 24, 2017)**

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission – Public Grants Program			
Proposal Score for T	otal Score		
Benefit native fish and wildlife through a project, education or enforcemen	t: 5 points		
The project provides a <b>clear benefit</b> to native fish and wildlife or pro an important fish or wildlife topic: 5 points	ovides education for		
The project provides some benefits to native fish and wildlife: 3-4 p	oints		
The project provides limited benefits to native fish and wildlife: 1-2	points		
The project does not benefit native fish and wildlife: 0 points			
Score:			
Cost Effectiveness – 2 points			
This project is a good value and provides a good cost/benefit ratio:	2 points		
This project provides moderate cost/benefit ratio: 1 point			
This project has a high cost for the benefits: 0 points			
Score:			
Benefit to the Santa Cruz Community – 1 point			
The project will benefit the Santa Cruz County community or habita	t: 1 point		
The project will not benefit the Santa Cruz community or habitat: 0	points		
Score:			
Expected Project Success – 2 points			
The project proponent has a record of successful projects or a new presents a solid foundation for success: 2 points	project proponent		
The project proponent has a mixed record for success on past proje provide evidence for potential success: 1 point	cts or does not		
The project proponent failed to provide an update on the past year'not present a solid foundation for potential success: 0 points	's funding or does		

Score: \_\_\_\_\_



## Inspiring, empowering, and transforming children's lives through outdoor education.

April 12, 2017

Donna Bradford Santa Cruz Fish and Game Commission 701 Ocean Street, Suite 312 Santa Cruz, CA 95060



## Dear Donna:

Enclosed is our newest Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Inside you will see how Exploring New Horizons has adopted the latest Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) into the curriculum. Discover how this became a "Goldilocks Moment" when our State Superintendent, Tom Torlakson passed the California Blueprint for Environmental Literacy. It's an exciting time to be in California!

Your continuing support for Exploring New Horizons is gratefully appreciated. Without you, many hundreds of students in the San Francisco Bay Area would not get to see the majestic height of a redwood tree or experience the vastness of the ocean. Experiencing nature for the first time, these underprivileged, low-income students in turn perform measurably better in school. We love our partnership with you!

Exploring New Horizons' mission is to support young people to be responsible stewards and engaged citizens through exploration of the natural world. Since 1979, Exploring New Horizons has provided residential outdoor school opportunities to over 100,000 from the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Exploring New Horizons helps prepare kids to address the environmental challenges of the 21st century by nurturing intelligent, active young citizens who will not only excel academically but also work together to create a healthy environment and sustainable society.

We will be in touch about finding a time to visit one of our campuses. Thank you for a successful year!

Warm regards,

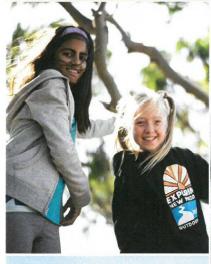
Tracey Weiss

**Executive Director** 

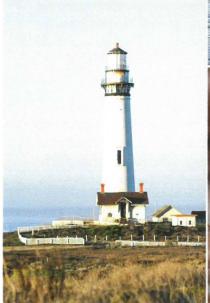




# **Annual Report 2017**











Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.

– Maimonides

As the Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools executive director, I'm constantly evaluating the efficacy of our programs and our ability to make good on the promises we make to the schools, students, and families we work with. Ours is not just an outdoor camp, but a rigorous educational program that helps bridge classroom concepts with real world experiences. By design, we engage students when they are most receptive and developing their critical thinking skills.

We work with the whole student. We aim to connect students to their place and power in the natural world. We endeavor to give them the skills to create change where it is needed to steward our natural resources thoughtfully and sustainably.

One of the ways we do this is by teaching them the art of inquiry. Our focus isn't on getting or giving the right answer, but on asking the questions that allow a deep dive into the learning process and that unlock the mysteries of our planet. In our industry this technique is known as Coyote Teaching and helps make theoretical concepts real and available. In bringing classroom study to life, our approach helps students understand their vital role in the earth's ecosystem.

As a steward of our mission I ask myself, "What more can we do to create the critical thinkers our planet needs? As an organization, what is the gift and power we bring to their communities?"

These are the questions that keep our eyes ever on the horizon for the future of our work. They set the standard for how we train and equip our team of skilled naturalists to utilize the unique learning moments on the trail that ignite passion in all the students that attend. They guide us in creating the strategic plan that ensures we provide another 35+ years of exceptional environmental education. In short, they help us live into our legacy.

Upon reviewing another incredible service year, I am struck by the power of our work and a deep gratitude for the supporters like you who help make it happen. Thank you for walking this path with us as we inspire, empower, and transform children's lives through outdoor education.

Sincerely

Weneyllew

Tracey Weiss, Executive Director

## MAPPING THE FUTURE OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION

# Next Generation Science Standards & the Blueprint for Environmental Literacy

Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools is truly fortunate to call California home. Our state continues to be a nationwide leader in education that incorporates science and the environment.

This past year, we saw the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standard (NGSS), which empowers students to immerse themselves into an academic subject. In addition, State Superintendent Tom Torlakson passed the Blueprint for Environmental Literacy. "Educating Every California Student In, About, and For the Environment," it provides a comprehensive roadmap for the future of environmental education.

## A Goldilocks Moment

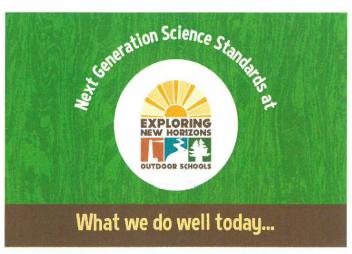
Together, these two developments have created a watershed, or, what is being called a "Goldilocks Moment" by the Ten Strands Foundation. Focused on connecting education, environment and community, they've recognized that the conditions are "just right" to plant environmental literacy in California's education system. We are thrilled at the state-level focus on our work and the potential of programs like ours to impact all California students.

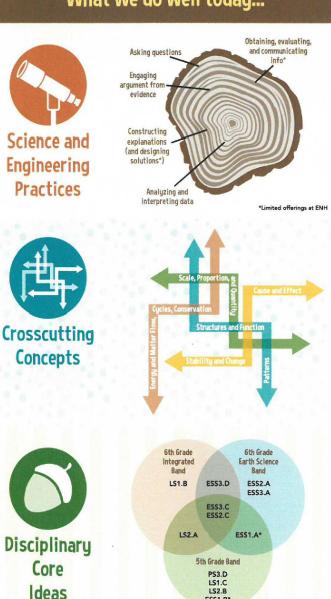
## How We're Keeping Pace

NGSS is a natural fit with our own work helping students understand, demonstrate, and observe academic concepts in their outdoor classroom. NGSS empowers students to take an in-depth approach to their learning with lessons designed to develop critical thinking, scientific process, and real-life data.

In keeping with these new standards and our ongoing commitment to awaken young minds to the wonder of nature, Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools utilizes activities that help students learn the art of inquiry and develop a love of investigation.

Working in partnership with over 100 schools we are supporting students in understanding the earth's cycles, cause and effect, and patterns within the natural world.





## The Power of Environmental Education

Education always evolves to reflect the needs of the workforce and the social challenges facing today's generation.

As we move ever forward towards technology, we see the effects it has on the connectivity of students and their ability to engage with one another in deep and meaningful ways. Each week we witness the profound gift of unfettered time in nature, away from gadgets and handhelds, focused on the earth and each other.

We know the work we do is needed now more than ever and we are hopeful that this new trend in education signals a future in which environmental literacy is an integral part of learning for all students, rather than just the lucky few.

## Who I am

by Sally (5th grade)

I start out as a little egg
So small I'm hard to see
It's dark and damp
Inside this camp
I'm ready to be free

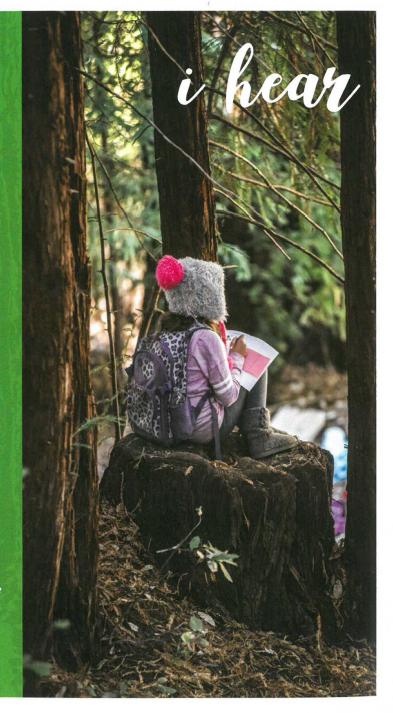
Then I hear a crack
I'm out of my sack
I roam around a leaf
I'm out
I'm out
I say twice in disbelief

I've hatched from my egg
With healthy legs
But this isn't the life I want for me
I'm ready for step three

I wrap a cloak around my skin

Hating the feel of slippery tin
I wait
For fate
Waiting for the moment to reveal
The beautiful wings I have to conceal
I have wings that stretch from there to here
As magical as can be
As you can see

I am a strong butterfly!





For over 35 years, Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools has held a unique role in the communities we have served. Providing outstanding environmental education to young students remains our emphasis, and one of the greatest effects of our programs is our ability to nurture the relationships between students and strengthen their communities as a result. We have thrived because of this interconnectedness and we're honored to serve as a pollinator in their community ecosystems.

Part of guaranteeing the continued success of our work is tending to the sustainability of our own ecosystem. This year, we've been hard at work developing our next strategic plan. We are dedicated to the long term health of our programs, which includes securing land to establish a permanent home for our school sites. This will open up even greater opportunities for Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools to operate in alignment with our values and mission.

As we continue to grow and look ahead to what the future holds for us, I want to recognize all of the amazing people who have nourished the Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools web of life. As we all know, a healthy ecosystem depends on diversity and interdependence. Thank you for what you bring to our community and your belief in our mission. We are so grateful to empower the next generation of environmental stewards with you!

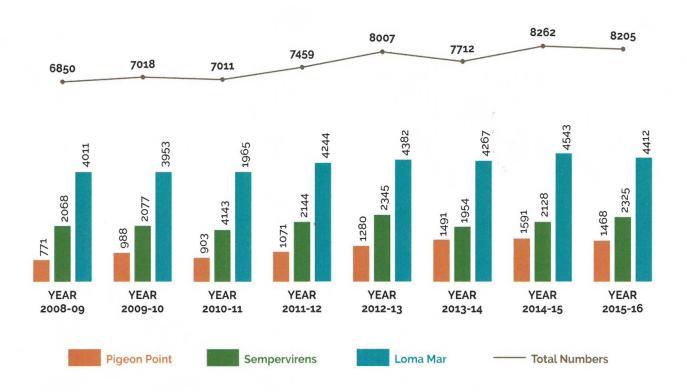
Sincerely,

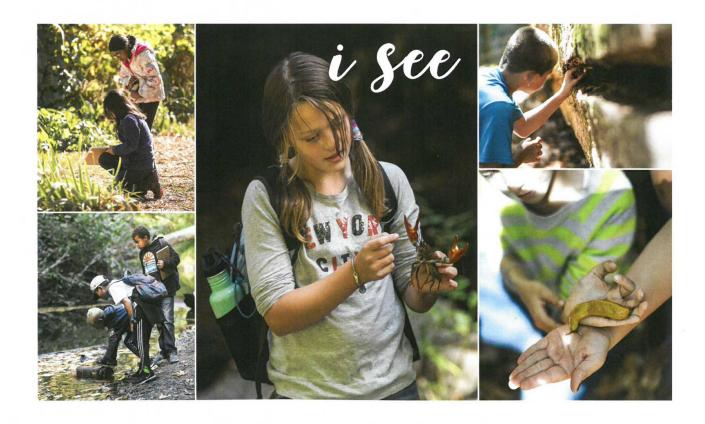
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Andrew Cerri, Board President



# STUDENT NUMBERS TRENDS







# **SCHOLARSHIP TRENDS**

SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN

1105

YEAR

2008-09

\$168,034

GRANT DOLLARS RAISED

SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS GIVEN

YEAR 2009-10



1021

YEAR

2010-11

946

YEAR

2011-12

975

YEAR

2012-13



YEAR

2013-14





YEAR

2014-15



YEAR

2015-16













\$112,577



\$120,091







\$164,268















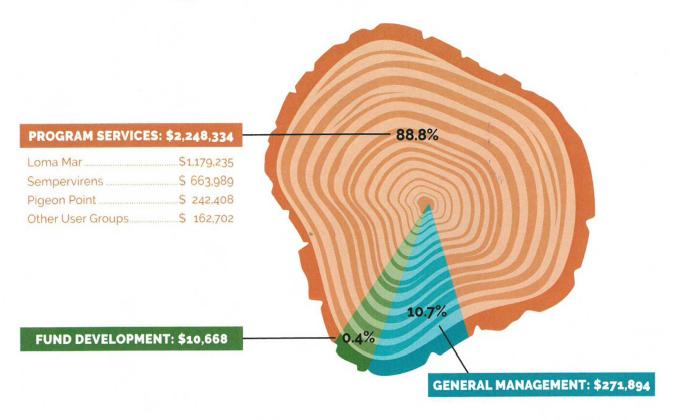




# i feel

"I choose to work here because I can feel the impact that freedom in nature has on kids. From the time they arrive on Monday, I am able to witness a shift in the way they see the world around them, and it's a beautiful thing."

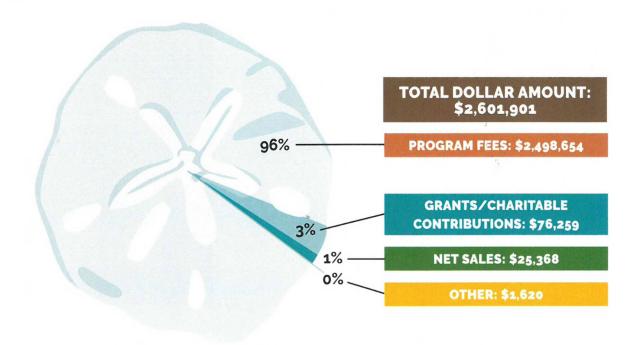


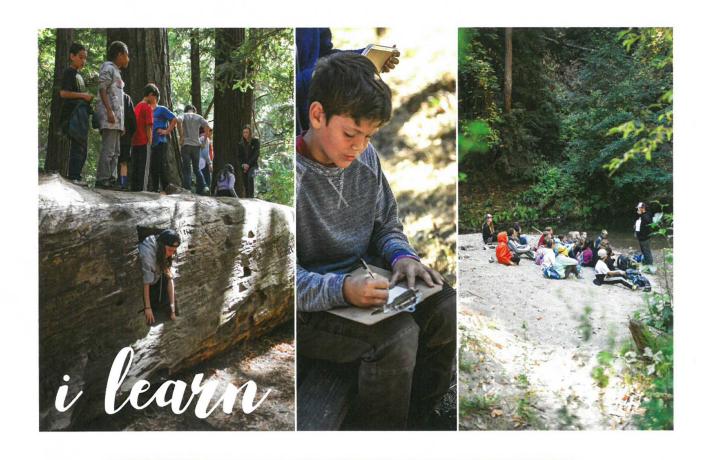












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