

# POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE ASSOCIATION

## Stewards of the Seashore since 1964

Nearly a century ago the National Park Service was created by citizens who believed there are unique places of beauty, wilderness, and history in the United States that belong to all and deserve to be preserved and enjoyed forever. Point Reyes National Seashore is one of these special places. Full of majestic scenery and bountiful history, Point Reyes National Seashore is located less than 30 miles north of San Francisco, and encompasses 100 square miles of coastal wilderness providing habitat for an amazing diversity of flora and fauna. As the only federally protected seashore on the west coast, the park includes 80 miles of undeveloped shoreline, historic pastoral lands, and more than 147 miles of trails that offer access to beaches, wetlands, forests, meadows, historic landmarks, and much more.



Saved from development in the 1960s by forward-thinking individuals, the seashore was incorporated into the national parks system as a symbol of our coastal heritage. Soon after the park was founded, the Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) was formed to help preserve and enhance the park's extraordinary natural, cultural and recreational resources. As the primary nonprofit cooperating association of the park, PRNSA helps raise funds to support critical resource preservation projects and manage a series of environmental education programs that seek to engage the public in the mission of the park. Through our work we continue to leave a legacy of stewardship for our magnificent seashore.

Since our founding PRNSA has raised millions of dollars to support park projects and environmental education programs that have enhanced visitor experience, protected the park's resources, improved wildlife habitat and, in many cases, made a profound difference in people's lives. Below are just a few examples of how we support the seashore.

### *ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND VISITOR SERVICES*

**Future Park Stewards:** PRNSA helped fund the construction of the Clem Miller Environmental Education Center where 2,000 children participate annually in residential environmental education programs managed by PRNSA. Thanks to community support we are able to provide 700 scholarships to underserved children to attend our summer camp and year-round school programs at the center. We also host an annual Children's Christmas Bird Count to connect children with nature and science. These experiences help children build a deeper connection to the natural world and will foster a new generation of environmental stewards.

**Science-Based Learning:** PRNSA collaborates with the Pacific Coast Science and Learning Center, one of the National Park Service's 17 research learning centers, to offer internships that pair high school and college students with researchers to assist in fieldwork. The internships allow the park to accomplish critical research and at the same time expose young people to career possibilities within the park and the field of environmental research.

**Point Reyes Field Seminars:** We offer over 160 field seminars annually that allow nearly 2,000 people a chance to explore nature history, birding, art, photography, and wilderness skills and more while gaining a deeper understanding of the park and nature.

**Bookstores and Publications:** PRNSA operates bookstores at the park's three visitor centers, offering visitors a wide selection of natural history and education materials about the surrounding area. We have also published a series of informative and affordable guides that help people get more acquainted with Point Reyes wildflowers, birds, and the history of ranching in the park.



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**Visitor Center:** PRNSA supported the construction of the Bear Valley Visitor Center, the park's main visitor center and home of the new Science on the Sphere program. This center is a hub for the park where two million visitors each year get information on what to see, learn about weather and trail conditions, pick up camping permits, and view exhibits about the park.

**Volunteers:** PRNSA funds docent programs where volunteers are trained to educate the public on threatened and endangered species including the Western snowy plovers, tule elk, gray whales and northern elephant seals. Hundreds of volunteers annually help enhance the experience of park visitors while learning new skills and contributing to an important cause.

### *RESOURCE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION*

**Giacomini Wetlands Restoration Project:** With community support PRNSA raised over six million dollars to fund the Giacomini Wetlands Restoration and helped manage the construction phase of the project. The project restored 550-acres of pastureland back to wetlands. We continue to fund this ongoing restoration project that promises to improve the water quality of Tomales Bay while providing habitat for countless native species of wildlife. PRNSA is developing curriculum to share this success story with school children and the public.

**Trail Enhancements:** PRNSA raises funds to support trail enhancements throughout the park, including most recently the restoration of the trail and construction of a raised boardwalk at Abbotts Lagoon. Through maintaining and promoting a variety of trails we promote responsible recreation and help visitors gain health benefits from exercise and experiencing nature first hand.

**Inventory and Monitoring:** PRNSA funds numerous research, restoration, and monitoring programs to protect threatened species and habitats including western snowy plovers, northern spotted owls, coho salmon and northern elephant seals. These projects help the park managers understand what the park has, and how to manage those resources best.

**Preserving History:** With community grants we were able to support the restoration of the last historic lifeboat station left intact along the west coast and located at Chimney Rock, preserving our national maritime history. Future funding will be needed to help to restore our lighthouse and other places of historical significance in the park in the coming years.

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Almost 50 years ago our community led the way to protect Point Reyes National Seashore from development, creating a sanctuary for wilderness and people to explore, discover and connect with this amazing resource. You are helping to continue this long tradition of community support with your contribution today.

*We must handle the woods, the water, the grasses  
so that we will hand them to our children and our  
children's children in better and not worse shape than  
we got them ~ Theodore Roosevelt*



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