Partnership in Parks through California Naturalist Program

A Tri-Park Program in Sonoma Valley

Re-opening of Sugarloaf Ridge State Park

- Sugarloaf was closed in December 2011 for the first time in its 48-year history due to the State of California's budget problems.

- Reopened in 2012 under management of Team Sugarloaf, a non-profit partnership of five groups, based mostly on volunteers.

First Year of Cal Nat- Sugarloaf Ridge State Park

- Program based entirely around our 4000 acre park.

- Strong showing and successful programming lead to on-going volunteer after the program at Sugarloaf.

- Many of the volunteers had commitments at other parks in the area.

- Volunteer coordinators attended program and expressed interest in expanding to other parks. Offered
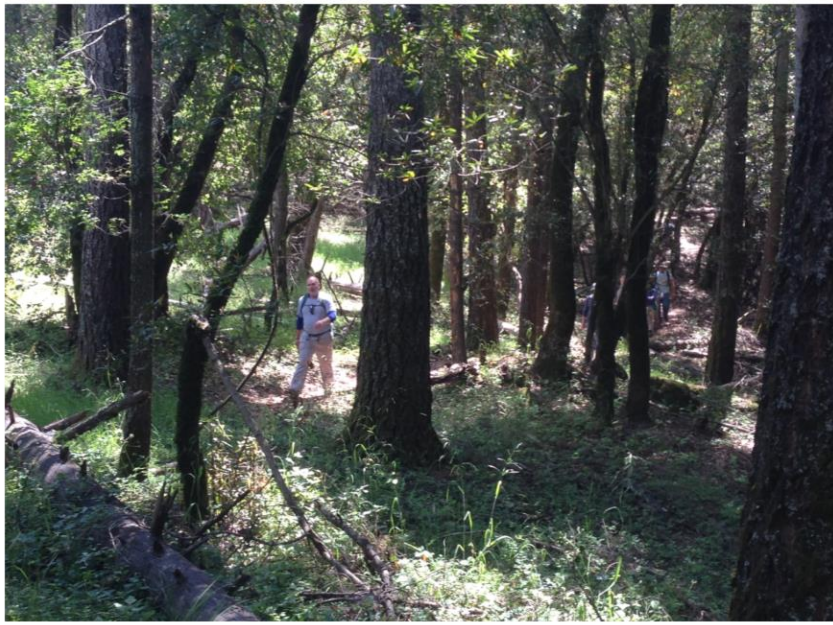
Multiple Parks Threatened Closures in Sonoma Valley

- In addition to Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Trione-Annadel State Park and Jack London State Park faced fiscal constraints and threatened closures.

- All three parks now operate on partial or full non-profit management along with community and volunteer support.

New Program- Sonoma Valley California Naturalist

- Attended and co-led with volunteer coordinators of Jack London and Trione-Annadel Park

- Diversified fieldtrips to incorporate both parks and Open Space District Land.

- New experts and resources provided by partners

- Expanded outreach for enrollment to park partners list serve.

- Unified volunteer opportunities through shared quarterly newsletters.

Sustainable Growth of New Cal Nat Programs

- Who is already providing Cal Nat in the area?
  - Is the need already being provided? Where can you find your niche?

- Who wants in?
  - What other organization might also benefit from the Cal Nat training and alumni community?

- Don't recreate the wheel.
  - Learn from the other providers already running the program!
  - Special thank you to SSI, Pepperwood and Stewards for helping start our program!

- Don't burn yourself out.
  - Share responsibilities and resources with other organizations.

Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.

Henry Ford