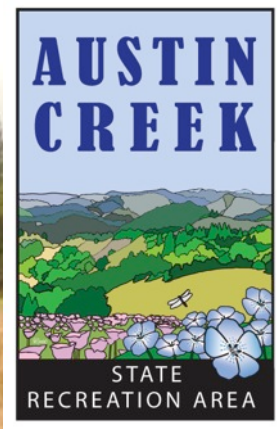
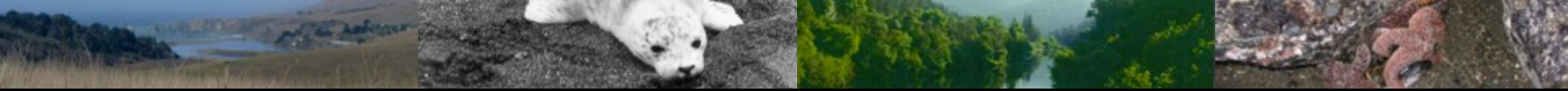


Co-Management of Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve Austin Creek State Recreation Area July 2019 - June 2020





Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods



Promote, Restore & Protect
Your State Parks
Since 1985



Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



Operating Agreement

Responsibilities of State Parks

- Provision of a State Parks liaison to Operator and public
- Lead for management and protection of natural, historical, and cultural resources, interpretive and educational services
- Provision of State Park volunteers and tools when available
- Hazardous tree surveys (may be funded by operator)
- Water testing and treatment (operator responsible for minor repairs)



Benefits to California State Parks with Operator

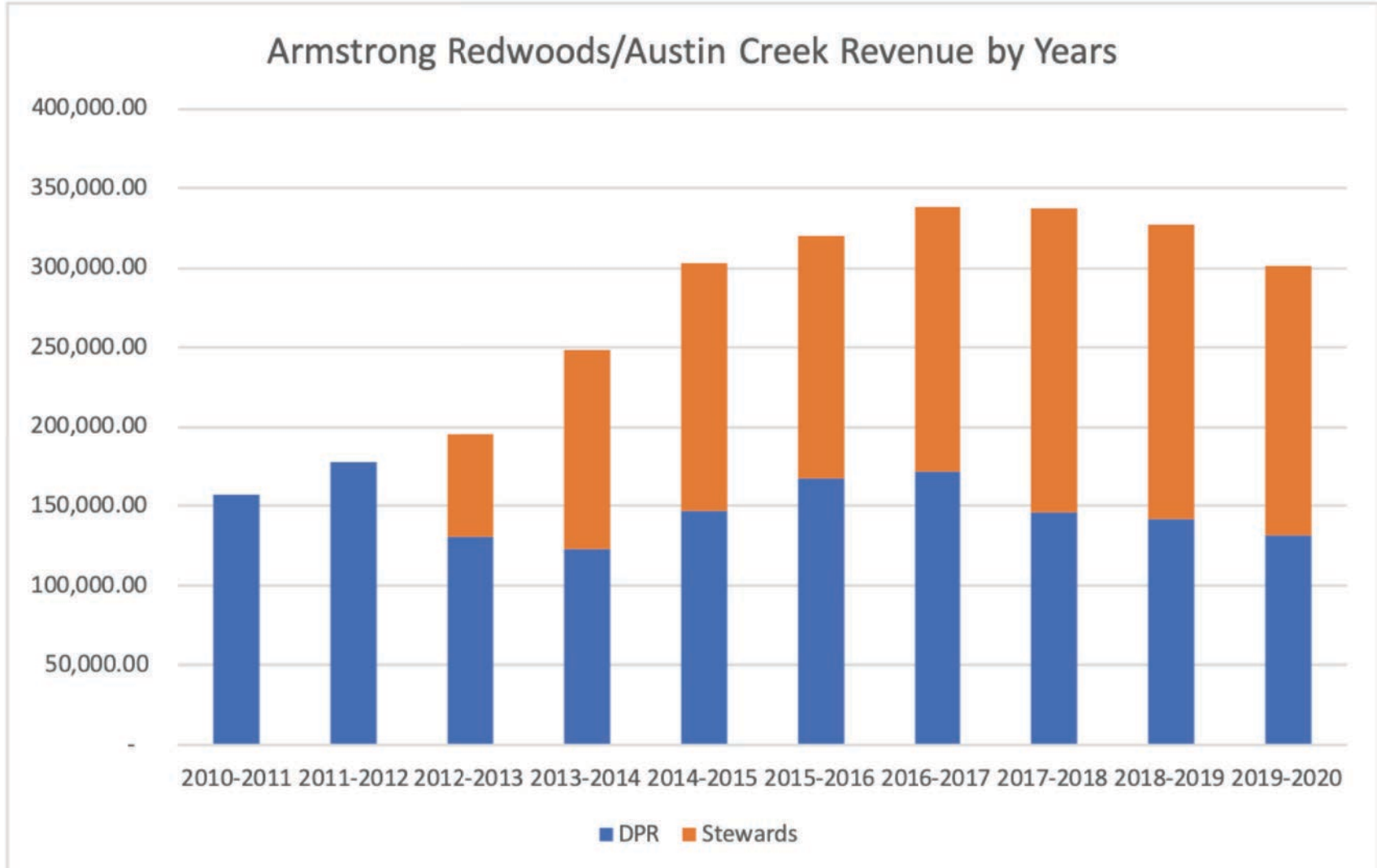


- ❖ Operating expense savings
- ❖ Overall revenue increase
- ❖ Public needs are met
- ❖ Campground open year round
- ❖ Increased programming
- ❖ Recruitment & retention, purchasing advantages



Overall Revenue Picture

Armstrong Redwoods SNR & Austin Creek SRA
Actual Total Fee Revenue
(including Operator's Fee revenue)



Armstrong Redwoods SRA/Austin Creek SRA Overview – July 2019 to June 2020

- Visitation decreased in 19/20 at both Armstrong & Austin Creek by 200,479 due to fire evacuations in 2019, Covid-19 and Wildfires in 2020.
- Camping visitation decreased in 19/20 by 1,719.
- Camping service rating was 91% on Hipcamp – negotiated a decrease in fees from 10% to 1%.
- Successful Fire Prevention and Fuel Reduction Program
- Camp host program
- Working closely with State Park on Fire Recovery Efforts
- New Co-management agreement close to signing
 - Five years with another Five year extension possible

AUSTIN CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA

Events – July 2019 to June 2020

- Events at Armstrong Redwoods and Austin Creek raised money in part for Austin Creek.
 - Sunset Dinner - 2019
 - Old Grove Festival – 2019
 - 2020 event cancelled due to Covid-19



AUSTIN CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA

Interpretation

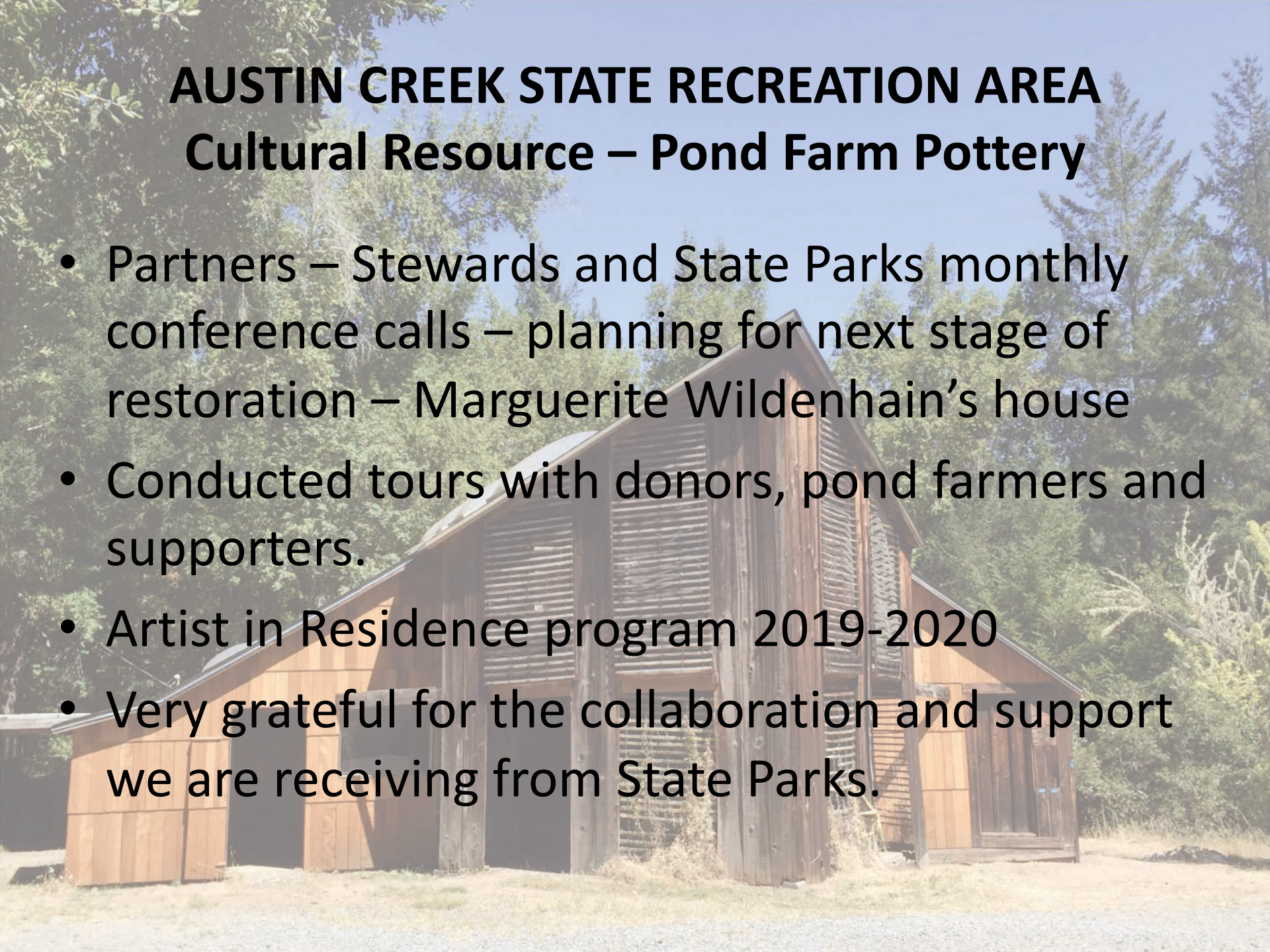
- Fourth week-long Forest to the Sea Day Camp took place in summer 2019.
- Annual Cal Naturalist Program in 2020 takes place in all parks.
- Stargazing and guided hikes



AUSTIN CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA

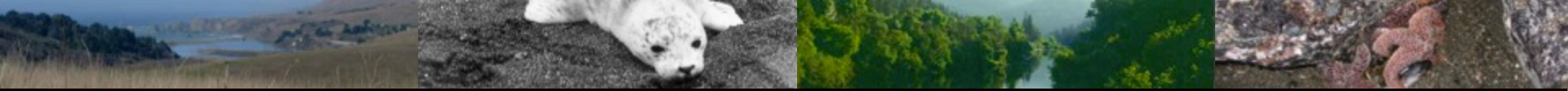
Cultural Resource – Pond Farm Pottery

- Partners – Stewards and State Parks monthly conference calls – planning for next stage of restoration – Marguerite Wildenhain's house
- Conducted tours with donors, pond farmers and supporters.
- Artist in Residence program 2019-2020
- Very grateful for the collaboration and support we are receiving from State Parks.



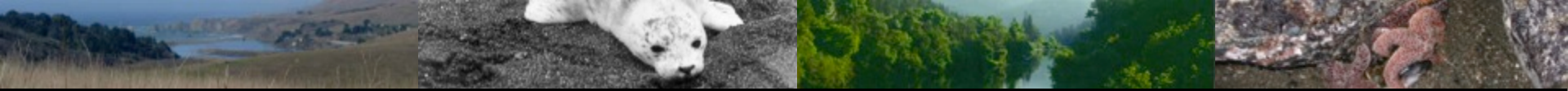
ARMSTRONG/AUSTIN CREEK Stewardship/Maintenance

- **Pumping of restrooms now occurs 2 times a year**
- **Water system leaks fixed**
- **Every month Trail Days take place in Armstrong Redwoods and Austin Creek**
 - **Fencing, Cleanup projects for Special Events, camp site renovations, improved parking barriers, firewood production, trail work to fix pot holes, and fallen debris, and hazardous tree clean up.**
- **Staff did significant amounts of brush cleaning, campground clean up, weed eating, and clearing of down trees in Austin Creek.**
- **Tool donations**
- **Ongoing brush/tree clearing in the backcountry and campground**
- **Fuel Reduction projects in the Austin Creek backcountry**
- **Youth Ecology Corps – 2 weeks in 2019**
 - **Fuel Reduction and more...**



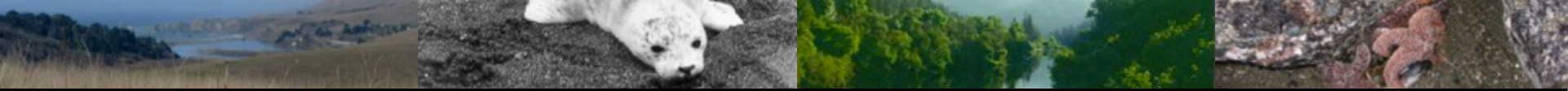
Armstrong & Austin Creek Trail Crew





Youth Ecology Corp

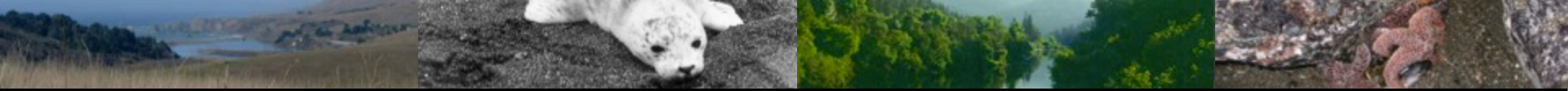




Walbridge Fire – 8/17/20



Bobse

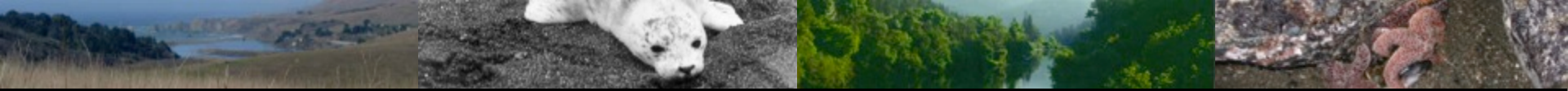


Acres Burned – Walbridge & Meyers

Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District LNU Fire Totals

Park Unit	Total Park Acres	Acres Burned	Percent Burned
Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve	752	511	68.0%
Austin Creek State Recreation Area	5927	3801	64.1%
Fort Ross State Historic Park	3303	377	11.4%
Sonoma Coast State Park	9038	40	0.4%
Total		4729	





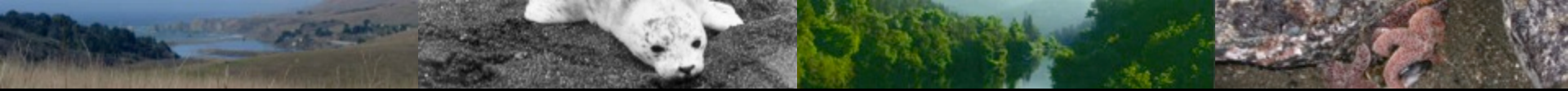
Fire Recovery



AUSTIN CREEK AND ARMSTRONG REDWOODS

Challenges and Looking Toward the Future

- Challenges
 - Lost Revenue from park closures due to Covid-19 and Wildfires
 - Fire Recovery from Walbridge Fire
 - Increasing Diversity and Equity
 - General Plan delayed for AR/AC
 - Co-Management Agreement Renewal/Timing
- Positive Outcomes
 - Working well with State Parks – communication was excellent during and after the fires.
 - Community Support as been tremendous



Ways you can Help Stewards

- Donate to our Fire Recovery Fund & Spread the Word
- Become a Member Become a Volunteer
- Consider Becoming Board or Committee Member
 - ❖ Looking to add more diversity
- Volunteer at our Special Events
- Corporate Volunteer workdays & Matching Programs
- Share your talents
- Sign up for our E-newsletter

