

Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District

Volunteer Duty Statement

Pinniped Monitoring

Sonoma Coast State Park, Jenner Visitor Center

The purpose of this position is to monitor pinnipeds in and near the Russian River Estuary for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and collect data per the contract between Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods and the Sonoma County Water Agency and to further the mission of California State Parks: “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.”

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Make a commitment to show up on time for on-call monitoring shifts that will take place as assigned
- Use monitoring forms and equipment with accuracy
- Report to assigned supervisor
- Wear provided name badge and California State Parks Volunteer patch while volunteering
- Keep track of volunteer time and record it in Better Impact or report it to the State Parks Volunteer Coordinator, the Stewards Volunteer Coordinator, or the Stewards Program Assistant

Skills and Qualifications:

- Knowledge or willingness to learn the behaviors of pinnipeds in relation to being harassed
- Proficiency in recording accurate monitoring data on the forms provided
- Ability to use binoculars, spotting scope, and camera
- Access to reliable transportation to get to Jenner and potentially up and down the Sonoma Coast

Time Commitment:

Timing is on-call depending on specific events that threaten harassment of marine mammals and may require 2-3 days in a row during early morning hours.

Training:

Pinniped Monitoring Training is required and provided by Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods and their assigned trainers from Sonoma Water. Bear in Mind EEO Training is required within 60 days of completing the paperwork and subsequently every two years.

Reporting:

The supervisor for this program is Visitor Services Program Manager, Tracy Weisberg. The lead for this program is the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods Program Director, Amelia Schall Tůmová is the Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District Volunteer Coordinator (Amelia.Schall@parks.ca.gov).

Benefits:

Participate in a program that provides scientific data to ensure MMPA compliance. As a volunteer with California State Parks, logging 40 hours of volunteer time earns a complimentary district pass, and 200 hours of volunteer time earns a complimentary VIPP statewide pass for the next year.

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Please contact Amelia Schall Tůmová about reporting volunteer hours and making a plan to receive your pass in a timely manner.

Conclusion:

The relationship between a volunteer and California State Parks must be one of mutual benefit. The Volunteer Service Agreement may be terminated at any time without cause and without advance notice.

If you willingly agree to perform all duties, please sign below.

State Park Volunteer Date

State Park Representative Date