PROTECTING CALIFORNIA’S UNIQUE ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY REQUIRES AN ENVIRONMENTALLY LITERATE, ENGAGED PUBLIC

- Science-based curriculum includes experiential learning, communication training, and community service projects
- University of California Cooperative Extension partners with local organizations to train and certify volunteer Naturalists
- Partner organizations increase capacity to meet their mission and formalize their volunteer training and retention
- Certified Naturalists form a new community of practice whose members become stewards and leaders in sharing, protecting, and restoring California’s natural resources

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE STATE

THE CALIFORNIA NATURALIST PROGRAM APPROACH TO CITIZEN SCIENCE

- On-line database of citizen science projects in California
- Class Naturalist project
- Class citizen science project
- Individual service learning projects
- Volunteer management system tracks effort

CALIFORNIA NATURALISTS CONTRIBUTE TO A VARIETY OF CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS

CITIZEN SCIENCE VOLUNTEER HOURS

- > 5000 citizen science volunteer hours reported
- 62% of the reported hours were spent on locally-based projects
- Types of reported effort include:
  - General ecology
  - Monitoring environmental quality and restoration
  - Invasive species and disease mapping and monitoring

CITIZEN SCIENCE ON-LINE PROJECT DATABASE FOR CALIFORNIA

- http://calnat.ucanr.edu
- Comprehensive, searchable database of over 120 California projects + a list of national/international projects
- Search the map for information on local and regional projects
- Add your project with the survey link on the home page
- NSF and Stephen J. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation funded project

ROLES FOR CERTIFIED NATURALISTS TO PROMOTE CITIZEN SCIENCE

- Designer
  - Creates or tests projects
- Coordinator
  - Works with researchers on data management, logistics, or recruitment outreach
- Trainer
  - Trains general public/school groups in data collection, entry, best practices, etc
- Data Collector
  - works directly on data collection and entry for projects that require some degree of training

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