



## **Center Self-Study/Program Review**

**Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary  
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics**

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29322 Modjeska Canyon Road, Silverado, CA 92676

Year Established: 1969

Year of Last Review: 2009

Date: March 31, 2017

1. **Mission and Goals:** The mission of Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary is to support science education and research and to act as a sanctuary for the preservation of native habitat and wildlife. As the only university-affiliated nature center in Orange County, we serve as an outdoor learning laboratory that provides science education for K-12 students and the public. We support CSUF student research and teacher training and provide a deep learning experience of the local ecosystem for school children and the public alike, through programs, exhibits, interpretive signage, and self-guided trails. We protect habitat for native wildlife, specifically birds, and are an educational resource for canyon neighbors. Our mission aligns clearly with the 2016-2017 goals of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Specifically, we provide field-based student internships and research opportunities (NSM Goal 3) and co-curricular programs that advance students' recognition of their citizenship in an interdependent global community (NSM Goal 1) through service learning and community involvement. Tucker's goals and objectives are listed in Section 6 and include the strengthening of campus connections, development of fundraising and facilities plans, and review of school and public programs.
  
2. **Activities:** In the past three years, TWS has made significant progress towards achieving the vision and goals laid out in its 2007 strategic plan. These objectives were: 1) to create a signature nature preserve, 2) to uphold the preserve's legacy, 3) to activate the preserve with new programs and uses, 4) to encourage economic vitality, and 5) to enhance connectivity with CSUF and the community. The full plan (2007-2017) is attached.

Specific mission-driven activities from the last three years include:

- a. Programming – hosting over 10,000 schoolchildren from surrounding schools for field trips, and providing fully one-quarter of those students with free bussing.
  - b. Capital projects - replacement of leaking pond with a recirculating creek, revegetation of chaparral trail, filter replacement in large pond, habitat restoration throughout the Sanctuary, and creek bank stabilization.
  - c. Interpretation – completion of a number of interpretive projects, including the laboratory and exhibits, new bird porch and gazebo signage, entrance banners, and a mobile interpretive cart.
  - d. Collaborations – projects with CSUF faculty include curriculum development, field training for student teachers, service learning opportunities, and hosting upper division courses for day long field trips.
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3. **Organizational Structure and Governance:** TWS is owned by CSUF's Auxiliary Services Corporation and is operated by the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM). The Director reports to the Dean of NSM. Tucker has had an Advisory Board in the past, however, it was composed of community members from the Silverado/Modjeska Canyon area, and it was decommissioned once it had served its purpose of increasing

community engagement. We have recently developed a Faculty Advisory Committee consisting of six NSM faculty, and we plan to add faculty from COE, UEE, and HHD. The purpose of this advisory board is to strengthen research ties between TWS and CSUF faculty and students.

**4. Resources and Sustainability:** Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary is primarily supported through an MOU between the College of NSM, CSUF Auxiliary Services Corporation, and the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Additional funding comes from revenue generated at the on-site gift shop, fees for tours and programs, events, and donations. A detailed table is attached. Staff include a part-time (20-hour) Director, a full-time Site Manager, and seven part-time employees. Other resources include a cadre of community volunteers and student interns. A campus administrative office is located in MH 161A. TWS itself is located on 12 acres in rural Modjeska Canyon, approximately 24 miles from campus. As with any field station or nature center annual costs are associated with the operation and maintenance of the facility. Much of this cost is offset by volunteer service and public donation. TWS has been an integral part of CSUF for almost 50 years, and is a beloved community institution. Thoughtful use of our resources will ensure that we are equally sustainable for the next 50 years.

**5. Highlights and Accomplishments:**

Over the past three years we have received generous grants from these corporations:

DATE	COMPANY	AMOUNT
8/12/15	Boeing	\$300
9/1/15	Western Digital Foundation	\$7700
12/15/16	Annual Wild Game Feed	\$2,000
8/3/16	The Alcoa Foundation	\$20,000
2/24/17	Robertson’s Ready Mix	\$20,000

In addition to the 10,000 K-6 students that have visited TWS for field trips in the past three years, we have hosted over 2,000 students from seven area colleges, and approximately 16,000 public visitors.

We are particularly proud of some unique collaborations we have developed in the past three years. We have worked closely with the College of Education to bring student teachers to Tucker for a variety of high-impact experiences, including K-6 curriculum development and student teaching. We have also worked with biology faculty to add a service learning component to their courses, for example, through habitat restoration work, curriculum design, or by building interpretive exhibits.

**6. Planning and Strategic Outlook:** The goals and objectives presented in the last strategic plan are nearly complete. Goals for the coming three-year period align with our strengths and resources. These are:

1. Development of a comprehensive fundraising plan that includes membership and donor special events, marketing and public relations, with the goal of increasing financial self-sufficiency.
2. Strengthening of campus connections by increasing CSUF faculty and student involvement in education and research.
3. Conducting a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary program (2018-19) with events, speakers and programs.
4. Completing capital projects: interpretive/signage program on the grounds and in the museum, outfitting of the laboratory with supplies and equipment for hands-on activities.
5. Creating new public programs, including UEE classes.
6. Aligning school programs with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and providing staff with opportunities for continuing education.

<b>Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary</b>			
<b>Category</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Net</b>
Donations	32,762		
Events	20,157	12,986	
Sales	41,969	31,389	
Field Trips/Tours	16,132		
Personnel		131,888	
Transfer In	130,000		
Advances/Receivables		3,558	
Animal Feed		4,241	
Cash		620	
Contracted Services		14,960	
Equipment		1,295	
Insurance		1,389	
Merchant Supplies		542	
Mileage/Travel		5,149	
Miscellaneous		7,334	
Postage		150	
Printing		818	
Property Tax		77	
Repair & Maintenance		8,772	
Telephone		1,006	
Trash & Utilities		10,283	
<b>Total</b>	<b>241,020</b>	<b>236,457</b>	<b>4563</b>