

# **SEA RANCH LODGE**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

### **CURRENT EFFORTS – FEBRUARY 2010**

**This provides a recap of current environmental stewardship and community support efforts at the Sea Ranch Lodge, The Sea Ranch, California.**

Sea Ranch Lodge is proud to be part of the Sea Ranch Community, which respects nature and harmonizes with environment through 'living lightly on the land'. The breathtaking beauty of this location, combined with the heritage of The Sea Ranch as one of the nation's first eco-developments, inspires the Sea Ranch Lodge each day to do what we believe is necessary to minimize our impact on the environment.

#### **NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION**

##### **1. Land, Sea & Wildlife**

- Sea Ranch Lodge is in a unique natural environment where flora, fauna and people all seem to thrive. Sea Ranch Lodge has a 52 acre site that is surrounded by The Sea Ranch community. There is a substantial amount of open space which allows for inhabitation by various wildlife.
- The Sea Ranch Lodge participates with local members of the California Coastal National Monument Stewardship (CCNMS) Task Force, in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management. The CCNMS Task Force is a volunteer project, which is conducting periodic monitoring the islands, pinnacles and rocks off the coastline of Sea Ranch for the purpose of gathering data relating to seabird, marine mammals, plants and other taxa. The genesis of the project here at Sea Ranch is an MOU between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and The Sea Ranch Association signed in January 2006. The Lodge site includes Bihler Point and Black Point, each of which offers prime vantage points for observation of species offshore.

##### **2. Adopt-A-Highway**

- The Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway Program provides an avenue for individuals, organizations, or businesses to help maintain sections of roadside within California's State Highway System. Groups have the option to participate as volunteers or to hire a maintenance service provider to perform the work on their behalf.
- Participation for the Sea Ranch Lodge includes: removing litter and controlling vegetation
- Sea Ranch Lodge participates in this popular program, taking care and responsibility for two miles of the scenic coast highway (CA Highway 1) directly south of the Sea Ranch Lodge.

#### **ECO-EFFICIENCY**

##### **1. Activities or Products to Reduce Usage of Energy, Chemicals or Other Resources**

- Water is conserved in guest rooms by low-flow shower heads and toilets.
- Bottled Water: It is estimated by the World Wide Fund for Nature that approximately 1.5 million tons of plastic is used in the bottled water industry every year. While many of these bottles are recycled by conscientious consumers, most are not, and are ending up in increasingly over-burdened landfills. Commencing in 2008, Sea Ranch Lodge began a program to eliminate its use of

plastic bottles in order to reduce the environmental impact contributing to this very issue. Sea Ranch Lodge provides its lodge guests with cold filtered tap water in a reusable glass container that are then sterilized and reused by future lodge guests.

- Guests are encouraged and able to assist in these conservation efforts, by opting not to have a change of linen on any particular day during their stay.
- South-facing windows in guest rooms provide passive solar energy that reduces energy consumption for heating.
- Only water-based paints are used for the Lodge's interior and exterior walls and surfaces.
- Low-voltage lighting and compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) are used wherever possible, especially in guest rooms and common sitting areas. In addition, down lighting is used outdoors to minimize light pollution.
- Building orientation and operable windows enhance natural ventilation and provide fresh ocean breezes.
- Fax and printer cartridges are recycled, as well as unneeded computers and office equipment. Computers and office equipment are configured to hibernate or turn off during periods of inactivity for reduced energy consumption.
- Styrofoam is not used anywhere on the property. Guests are provided fresh water in glasses and ceramic mugs to minimize use of paper cups and plastic bottles. Other non-disposable amenities available in-room includes cloth instead of paper towels and biodegradable soaps, shampoos and lotions.
- Collateral material is printed on recycled paper and an effort is made to use soy-based inks.

## **2. Use or Better Use of Organic/Earth-Friendly/Sustainable/Recyclable Products or Resources**

- All guest-room items are reusable, such a wooden hangers and metal guest-room keys.
- Sea Ranch Lodge implements and follows an extensive, property-wide recycling program for paper, newspaper, cardboard, cans, glass, aluminum, plastic, and phone books. The kitchen seeks to minimize its waste by separating and providing compostable materials to a local Sea Ranch community gardening group. Also, to minimize waste and packaging, Sea Ranch Lodge endeavors to use whenever possible recycled and recyclable materials.
- Each guest room has a recycling bin to make collection easy and accessible. Recycling bins are also kept at maintenance, housekeeping and in the employee break rooms.
- Packing materials are reused for shipping.
- The Sea Ranch Lodge staff follows the developed and well thought out Environmental Principles in all aspects of business. Environmental factors and audits in performance evaluation systems are utilized for individuals and business units. Individuals are encouraged to come up with innovative environmental programs. The kitchen providing its compostable materials to a local gardening group is an example of this.
- Collateral material is printed on recycled paper and most inks are soy-based.
- The office minimizes the use of paper, which is recycled. Used paper is reversed and reused for incoming faxes or cut into squares for scratch paper. Memos are circulated and initialed to cut down on paper use.
- The Lodge uses fair-trade organic coffees and teas.

- The Lodge serves only draft beer, decreasing the use of glass bottles, which require energy for recycling and processing. Beer kegs are returned to the supplier and reused.
- Plant waste is chipped, mulched and returned to the earth. All organic food items are composted.

#### ***Sea Ranch Lodge Restaurant***

- Sea Ranch Lodge’s restaurant supports small producers and the regional economy by serving all-natural free-range beef and poultry and fresh, locally-grown seasonal organic vegetables and fruit.
- We support sustainable fishing practices and do not serve endangered or threatened fish in the restaurant. If possible, seafood is purchased from local fishermen and other foodstuffs from local producers or farmer’s markets.
- Sea Ranch Lodge uses biodegradable containers made of corn starch, plates formed from bagasse, a by-product of sugarcane, and utensils created from potato starch. An alternative to non-degradable plastic packaging, these products are also renewable, sustainable and compostable.
- The Sea Ranch Lodge uses “Greenworks” products cleaning and maintaining equipment and fixtures that are renewable, biodegradable and sustainable.

#### **4. Energy Efficiency**

- Employees are encouraged to carpool from the local communities from where they reside including Gualala, Point Arena, Timber Cover and Jenner.
- Our maintenance staff drives rechargeable electric carts.
- The buildings have been oriented to maximize the natural flow of air for ventilation. No air conditioning used.

#### **5. Purchasing**

- The Sea Ranch Lodge seeks out suppliers, distributors, and business partners that meet environmental and social standards equivalent to those we set for our own products and services, including working with local cottage suppliers.
- Purchasing operates with a number of environmental criteria, such as:
  - Products are eco-friendly and reusable when possible.
  - Preference is given to purchasing environmentally-superior products and office materials.
  - Purchasing of products is done in bulk whenever possible to minimize packaging, preferably in recyclable or reusable containers.
  - Gift shop items emphasize beautiful organic goods and local hand-crafted pieces.

#### **6. Indoor Environmental Quality**

- Sea Ranch Lodge is designated as a non-smoking facility.
- The property implements an indoor air quality management plan to ensure guests’ well-being, including maintenance and monitoring.
- All guest rooms and public spaces are designed to make the most of the site’s daylight and exceptional views.

## **OUTREACH, EDUCATION & INCENTIVES**

### **1. Guests**

- Guests are encouraged to enjoy various place-based activities, which share and take advantage of the many ecological, community and individual resources available to Sea Ranch Lodge
  - Access to over 40 miles of hiking trails on The Sea Ranch. Eight miles of coastal trail with stair access to five secluded beaches.
  - Seasonal Nature walks
  - Bird watching -- to enhance this enjoyable activity, information is available to guests on bird species of the area
  - ‘Mimosas & Whales’ -- seasonal whale watching in March
  - Star-Gazing

### **2. Employees**

- Sea Ranch Lodge encourages employee and guest education programs, especially in the area of environmental protection.
- Training programs and demonstrations share important knowledge and the lodge’s commitment to the environment and community with staff and others. These include:
  - CPR and AED (use of a defibrillator)
  - Benefits of recycling
  - Fire protection
  - Safety sessions on various subjects such as before getting on a ladder and fire extinguisher usage
  - Endangered species training with local ecologists

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INVOLVEMENT & COMMITMENTS**

- Sea Ranch Lodge collaborates with community members to promote improvements in local health, education, diversity, and economic development. Specific endeavors include:
  - Supporting the Arts Program at the local Gualala Arts Center including on property gallery for display of local artwork.
  - Supporting of local schools and various other non-profit programs.
  - Emergency Services staging area for the Sea Ranch Community
- Sea Ranch Lodge contributes numerous resources to the local community through charitable giving, employee volunteerism and in-kind contributions of goods and services. Local organizations we support include:
  - Sonoma Boys and Girls Club.
  - Rotary Club

- Redwood Coast Humane Society
- Anchor Bay Children's Choir
- Redwood Coast Medical Services
- St. Mathias Preschool
- Bay Area Discovery Museum
- Point Arena High School
- Redwood Coast Firefighters Association
- Redwood Coast Whale and Jazz Festival
- Berkeley Symphony Orchestra
- Special Kids Crusade for the Blind
- Action Network