



General Management Plan  
Newsletter #2  
August 2002

# Preliminary Alternatives

Dear Friends:

We are continuing to work on the development of a new general management plan (GMP) for Channel Islands National Park. This general management plan will determine park management goals for the next 15 to 20 years. This planning effort began in summer 2001, and we are about one-third of the way through the process. This newsletter updates our progress and seeks your help.

This newsletter presents three preliminary management alternatives that would alter the park's current overall management direction as well as one alternative that calls for no action, or business as usual, which is a required plan component. During several in-park workshops this past spring, the planning team developed these alternatives based on the park's purpose and significance, park issues, legal mandates, and your comments during the public scoping period. Each alternative presents a different approach to future park management, with a different focus on cultural and natural resource management and different types of developments and visitor opportunities on the islands. The alternatives do this through different combinations of management prescriptions (zones). Included in this newsletter are narrative descriptions and maps of each alternative.

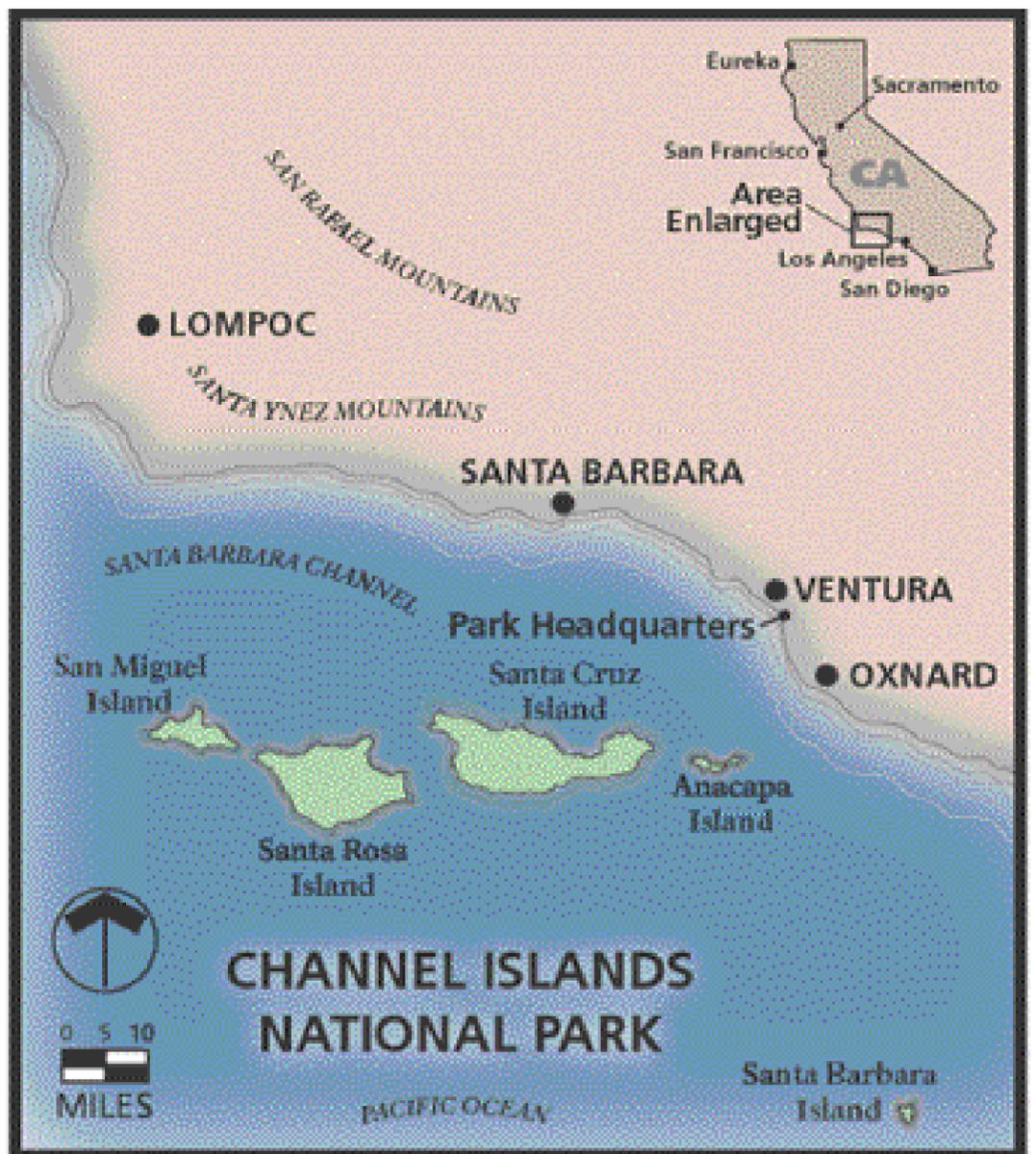
We would like your comments and suggestions on the preliminary alternatives presented in this newsletter. Please feel free to give us input or comments on items we may have overlooked or not considered. We have included a mail-in form for your comments. You may also send in comments over the Internet to: [CHIS\\_GMP@nps.gov](mailto:CHIS_GMP@nps.gov). In addition, we will hold public open house meetings in September for you to meet with us and personally comment on these alternatives. Specific meeting dates, locations, and times are included in this newsletter.

Based on the public's comments, the planning team will reevaluate the alternatives, modify them as necessary, and develop a preferred alternative. Our preferred alternative may be one of the four alternatives in this newsletter, it may include elements from several of the alternatives, or it may be an entirely new alternative. The draft alternatives and an analysis of the impacts of implementing each alternative will be presented in a *Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*, which you will also have an opportunity to review and comment on before the *Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* is published.

We sincerely value your input regarding the future management of Channel Islands National Park, and thank you in advance for your time and participation. Preservation and conservation of park resources through public communication, collaboration, and cooperation is essential to a successful general management plan being developed. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tim J. Setnicka  
Superintendent



## You're Invited. . .

We welcome your comments and suggestions on the preliminary alternatives presented in this newsletter. We hope to see you at one of the meetings listed below.

**September 17:**  
Malibu Public Library  
23519 Civic Center Way, Malibu  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**September 18:**  
Channel Islands National Park  
Headquarters  
1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura  
2:00 pm. - 4:00 p.m. and  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**September 19:**  
Cabrillo Pavillion  
1118 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



## THE PLANNING PROCESS

Park planning is organized around three primary questions: **WHY** was this park established and what is its overall mission? **WHAT** is the vision for the future (what kind of place do we want Channel Islands to be in the first decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond)? and **HOW** do we accomplish our future vision (what actions are needed to create this desired future)?

Statements of Channel Islands National Park's purpose and significance provide answers to the **WHY** questions and form the foundation for the general management plan. Developing a vision for the park's future (answering the **WHAT** question) is the primary function of the general management plan.

In *Newsletter # 1* (<http://planning.den.nps.gov>), we sent you the park's purpose (see inset) and significance statements and asked for your suggestions for improvement and what issues you saw for the management of Channel Islands National Park. We also held meetings in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Oxnard, and Ventura to hear what you had to say.

Your comments have been very important in the identification of issues and the development of possible visions (called alternatives) for the future. The planning team has now developed a range of preliminary alternatives. These are alternative ways for protecting resources, meeting the needs of our visitors, and addressing the concerns of neighbors and partners. Evaluating a set of alternatives enables us to compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of one course of action over another, as

required by the National Environmental Policy Act, and helps decision makers make informed decisions.

### The purpose of Channel Islands National Park is to:

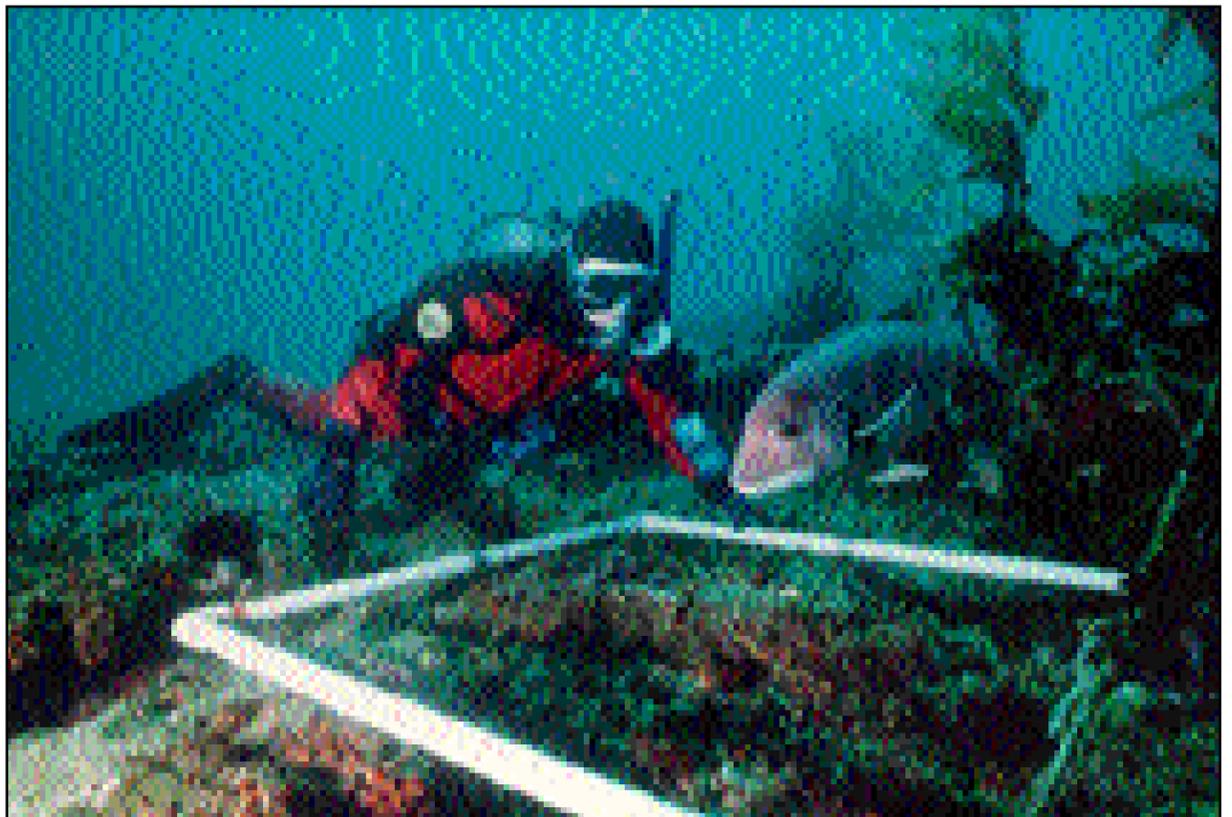
- Protect and interpret the nationally and internationally significant natural, scenic, wildlife, marine, ecological, historical, archeological, cultural and scientific values of the Channel Islands.
- Understand populations, dynamics, and trends in terrestrial and marine ecosystems.
- Provide for low-intensity, safe public use and enjoyment with minimum impacts to park values.

## MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

Management prescriptions identify how different areas of the park could be managed to achieve a variety of resource conditions and visitor experiences. Each prescription specifies a particular combination of resource conditions, visitor experiences/activities, and appropriate development. Different actions would be taken by the National Park Service in different prescriptions with regard to the types and levels of uses and facilities. The planning team has developed descriptions for eight prescriptions that could be appropriate at Channel Islands; they are described on page 3. Alternatives for future park conditions and management have been developed by arranging these prescriptions in different configurations in the park.

### Marine Protected Areas

The California Fish and Game Commission is considering the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) proposal to create marine protected areas (MPAs) within and around the park. The action alternative maps show these marine protected areas, within the park boundary, as identified by the CDFG (with the exception of two within the park boundary off of west end of Santa Cruz Island). A description of how these areas would be managed is included in the management prescription matrix. If these marine protected areas are changed in the final approved CDFG plan, these areas in the NPS general management plan could be modified.



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

Both the National Environmental Policy Act and the NPS planning process requires examination of a range of different futures or alternative approaches for managing Channel Islands National Park. Alternatives are an important part of responsible planning. They allow managers, users, partners, and interested citizens to come together and explore different approaches to protecting resources, managing use, directing development, and resolving conflicts in national parks. This ensures that trends, impacts, trade-offs, and the public's ideas and concerns have been considered before a management approach is selected for a Park.

All alternatives must be consistent with the purposes for which Channel Islands National Park was established, must be reasonable, and must be consistent with other legislative mandates (e.g., the Endangered Species Act and National Historic Preservation Act) and NPS policies.

This spring the planning team developed four preliminary alternatives for managing Channel Islands National Park. Each alternative is based on a different overall vision of what the national park should be. One alternative is based on the park's existing management directions; the other three provide different management approaches and

directions to guide the park during the next 15 to 20 years. In formulating these alternatives the planning team considered the park's purpose and significance, other legal mandates, NPS policies, and input from the public, park staff, government agencies, and other organizations about desired future conditions for the park and specific issues that need to be addressed.

Four preliminary alternatives are described in this newsletter. For each alternative there is a concept statement that generally describes the guiding philosophy or overall direction for that alternative. After the concept there is a general description of the management directions and actions that would be taken for natural and cultural resources, visitor experiences, access, and facilities.

Alternative A is a "no-action" alternative that describes existing management and serves as a basis for comparing the other alternatives. The three "action" alternatives (B-D) have maps showing where different management prescriptions would be applied in the park. At the end of this section there is a summary comparison of the alternatives.

Several points are important to keep in mind while reading the alternatives. These are preliminary ideas. The alternatives may contain some gaps and inconsistencies, and some ideas may not be fully developed. With your input, the planning team will continue to refine the alternatives and management prescriptions. Unless otherwise stated, all existing uses and visitor and administrative facilities would continue to occur in the park under all of the alternatives.

The three action alternative maps show how the areas with use and occupancy rights would be managed after they expire. However, until they expire, the National Park Service will continue to recognize and respect the valid rights of these individuals. Similarly, the National Park

Service will continue to honor legal agreements it has for use and access of areas, such as with the former owners of Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands.

The alternatives are conceptual in nature, focusing on *what* resource conditions and visitor experiences should be in Channel Islands rather than on details on *how* they should be achieved. Thus, the alternatives do not contain details on facility designs and locations, describe specific management techniques, or identify specific trails and routes. Additional feasibility studies and more detailed planning and environmental documentation will be required before developments proposed in any alternative are built. The exception is the development concept plan for the Scorpion area of Santa Cruz.

The National Park Service is looking at developing more detailed plans for this area as a part of the GMP due to flooding and other resource concerns. Also, implementation of any of these alternatives depends on funding. The general management plan will establish a vision of the future that will guide year-to-year management of the park, but full implementation of the plan could be many years in the future.

Finally, the alternatives that follow define the range of alternatives the National Park Service is considering for Channel Islands National Park. It must be stressed that no decision has been made on which alternative the National Park Service will select as its preferred alternative. A preferred alternative will be developed once we have analyzed your comments on the alternatives and after additional analysis of the alternatives has been completed.

The preferred alternative may be one of the alternatives in this workbook, or it may be a new alternative that includes elements from several of the alternatives.



## MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

		Resource Condition	Visitor Experience/Activity	Appropriate Development
<b>Terrestrial Prescriptions</b>	<b>RESOURCE SENSITIVE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native species and natural processes would predominate in this prescription.</li> <li>The overall character of resources would be pristine.</li> <li>Naturally functioning ecosystem components and processes would be maintained and restored.</li> <li>Exotic species would be eliminated where feasible, and otherwise would be controlled.</li> <li>Human-caused habitat fragmentation would not be permitted.</li> <li>Evidence of recent human activity would be minimal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitor use would be restricted in this prescription due to the presence of sensitive resources.</li> <li>Authorized uses might include resource protection, research, monitoring, and field trips.</li> <li>No onsite interpretive media would be permitted. Resources would be interpreted offsite so visitors could understand significant resources and the importance of their protection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No development would be permitted in this prescription unless required for resource protection or temporary research facilities.</li> </ul>
	<b>BACKCOUNTRY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural resources might be modified slightly to accommodate moderate levels of visitor use.</li> <li>Although some visitor use would occur in this prescription, native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation.</li> <li>Naturally functioning ecosystem components and processes would be maintained and restored.</li> <li>Exotic species would be eliminated where feasible and otherwise would be controlled.</li> <li>Human-caused habitat fragmentation would be minimal.</li> <li>Cultural resources would be preserved, rehabilitated, or allowed to deteriorate; treatment of cultural resources would be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the resource's significance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This prescription would provide opportunities for outdoor activities in diverse natural settings, consistent with the protection of natural and cultural resources.</li> <li>Moderate visitor use levels would be accommodated in this prescription, but the experience would be primitive, require self-reliance, and offer some opportunities for solitude.</li> <li>Challenge, adventure, and discovery would be components of the experience.</li> <li>Although only minimal onsite interpretive media would be appropriate, moderate levels of interpretation and orientation might be provided offsite to prepare visitors for their backcountry experience and encourage appropriate care of sensitive resources.</li> <li>All recreation would be nonmotorized and nonmechanized.</li> <li>Appropriate activities in this prescription might include hiking, backpacking, backcountry camping, horseback riding/packstock use, and nature observation.</li> <li>All camping would be at designated campsites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developments in this prescription would be unobtrusive and blend with the natural environment.</li> <li>Only those facilities necessary to support visitor activities would be appropriate. Trails, marked routes, designated backcountry campsites, pit toilets, wind screens, food storage boxes, and water pumps could be included.</li> <li>Other site hardening devices such as boardwalks, fencing, and pedestrian paths would be permitted as necessary to protect resources.</li> <li>Adaptive use of historic structures might be appropriate in this prescription.</li> </ul>
	<b>HISTORIC LANDSCAPE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic buildings, structures, and other landscape characteristics and features would be preserved or rehabilitated to represent the evolution of human use and occupation.</li> <li>Resources might be used for interpretive and/or compatible operational purposes by the National Park Service or its partners.</li> <li>Nonhistoric development and activities that are necessary for visitor and operational support might occur as long as the overall character of the cultural landscape would not be compromised.</li> <li>Natural resources that have been identified as important to the cultural landscape would be managed to perpetuate that landscape.</li> <li>The treatment of natural resources within this prescription would be determined on a case-by-case basis.</li> <li>The treatment of cultural resources might be altered to minimize impacts on natural resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The primary experience in this prescription would be visiting and learning about cultural resources and their evolution over time.</li> <li>Other activities might include automobile touring, bicycling, horseback riding, walking, hiking, and other compatible activities provided by National Park Service and its partners.</li> <li>Visitation would be maintained at moderate levels to allow some opportunities for discovery, occasional solitude, and enjoyment of the cultural setting with only moderate noise.</li> <li>Interpretation would be important to the experience, but would be unobtrusive and would not compromise the cultural landscape character.</li> <li>Additional information and orientation might be offered offsite.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modest development would be permitted if necessary to support visitor and operational activities.</li> <li>Developments might include interpretive media, walkways, trails, small picnic areas, and restrooms.</li> <li>All developments would be compatible with the cultural landscape.</li> <li>Facilities would be fully accessible to the extent feasible without compromising the cultural character.</li> </ul>
	<b>FRONTCOUNTRY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because the purpose of this prescription would be to provide for higher levels of active recreation, it would be located in areas where resources are relatively resilient and can accept this use.</li> <li>Natural resources would be managed or modified to support visitor activities but would appear natural and would be protected to the degree feasible.</li> <li>Sensitive natural and cultural resources occurring in the prescription would be protected.</li> <li>Exotic species would be eliminated where feasible, and otherwise would be controlled.</li> <li>Human-caused habitat fragmentation would be mitigated to the extent possible.</li> <li>Cultural resources would be preserved or rehabilitated and adaptively used for visitor support or park operational purposes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher levels of visitor recreational activity would be accommodated in this prescription.</li> <li>Activities might include hiking, camping, picnicking, bicycling, fishing, horseback riding, and interpretive/educational activities.</li> <li>Opportunities for challenge and exertion would be components of the experience in this prescription; fairly high levels of noise would be expected.</li> <li>There would be more contact with NPS staff and concessioners compared to the other prescriptions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Destination-oriented visitor facilities, such as visitor centers, museums, staging areas, and developed campgrounds, would be in this prescription.</li> <li>Other appropriate facilities that support visitor activities could include visitor contact stations, unpaved maintained roads, surfaced or paved walkways and trails, restrooms, picnic tables, and benches.</li> <li>Resources would be protected by site hardening devices (such as boardwalks, fencing, and paved pathways) and by design of visitor circulation systems.</li> </ul>
	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because these areas would be highly used and developed, this prescription would only be located in previously disturbed areas, areas of low resource potential, or areas with relatively resilient resources that can be modified with acceptable impacts.</li> <li>Exotic species would be eliminated where feasible, and otherwise would be controlled.</li> <li>Cultural resources in the prescription might be rehabilitated for adaptive uses, which would be preferable to new construction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There would generally be no visitor use in this prescription, but areas in the prescription would be highly used by park staff, volunteers, partners, and others engaged in park operations and administration.</li> <li>Efficiency, safety, and convenience would be important components.</li> <li>Times of high noise levels and large concentrations of people would be expected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative offices, maintenance areas, employee housing, and other facilities needed to support park operations would be in this prescription.</li> </ul>
	<b>MARINE STEWARDSHIP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural processes and native species would predominate.</li> <li>Less tolerance for resource degradation compared to undeveloped access prescription.</li> <li>Evidence of human impact would be infrequent and of limited extent.</li> <li>Submerged cultural resources would retain their integrity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A variety of experiences (e.g., boating, fishing, diving, snorkeling) would be available. Boat would be needed to access this area.</li> <li>A high level of independence would be required.</li> <li>There would be a high chance for solitude.</li> <li>There would be a lower number of boats than in undeveloped access prescription.</li> <li>Fishing, sailing, kayaking, and diving would be permitted.</li> <li>Interpretation might be provided in some areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Underwater trails</li> <li>Few to no visible/permanent facilities</li> <li>Research equipment</li> </ul>
<b>Marine Prescriptions</b>	<b>UNDEVELOPED ACCESS/ ANCHORAGE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural processes and native species would predominate/prevail.</li> <li>Tolerance for resource degradation would be very low.</li> <li>Evidence of human impact would be infrequent and limited in extent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would be physically more challenging than the developed access area (need to swim or use a skiff).</li> <li>High level of independence, challenge, and adventure would be required.</li> <li>High concentration of boats could be expected; occasionally these areas would be crowded.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Few to no visible facilities above water.</li> <li>Monitoring/research equipment.</li> <li>Underwater trail</li> </ul>
	<b>DEVELOPED ACCESS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural environment would be modified for essential visitor/operational needs.</li> <li>Known sensitive resources would be avoided to extent possible or mitigated appropriately.</li> <li>Facilities would be designed and managed to ensure resource protection/ public safety and compatibility with the natural/cultural landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More people would be in this than other marine prescriptions.</li> <li>Opportunities for solitude would be limited.</li> <li>More opportunity for education, interpretation, and orientation would be offered than in other marine prescriptions.</li> <li>Visitors would have more opportunities than in other marine prescriptions for exposure to cultural resources.</li> <li>Visitors might feel a higher sense of security with the presence of docks.</li> <li>NPS staff might be present.</li> <li>There would be a moderate tolerance for noise and visual intrusions (boats, exhaust, lots of people).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landing docks</li> <li>Cranes</li> <li>Research equipment</li> <li>Interpretive exhibits</li> </ul>
	<b>MARINE PROTECTED</b> <small>Includes Reserves and Conservation Areas</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rare, threatened, or endangered native plants, animals, or habitats would be protected and/or restored.</li> <li>Outstanding, representative, or imperiled marine species, communities, habitats and ecosystems would be protected and/or restored.</li> <li>Diverse marine gene pools would be protected or restored</li> <li>Sustainable harvest of marine resources (conservation areas only) could be allowed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A variety of experiences (i.e., boating, fishing, diving, snorkeling) would be available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very few to no visible facilities above water.</li> <li>Monitoring/research equipment.</li> </ul>



#### ALTERNATIVE A - NO ACTION

This alternative provides a baseline for evaluating changes and impacts in the other alternatives. Under alternative A the National Park Service would continue to manage Channel Islands National Park as it has since the 1985 *General Management Plan Supplement* and the 1980 *General Management Plan* were approved. For the foreseeable future there would be no major change in the management of the islands. All facilities and resource programs would continue as they have. Resource stewardship would continue to be an overriding consideration in all activities.

The natural resource program would continue to focus on restoring species and ecosystems, inventorying and monitoring, resource protection and preservation, mitigation, and applied research efforts. The cultural resource program would continue to focus on the protection of archeological sites and the preservation of historic structures and landscapes. The National Park Service would continue to foster partnerships with The Nature Conservancy, military, and other agencies, primarily for resource stewardship, interpretive, and administrative purposes.

Transportation methods to the islands would continue as they are, and the road system on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa would continue to be used and maintained. Efforts to encourage visitors to come to the islands and to assist visitors on the islands would continue. The park's outreach and education programs would continue to focus primarily on schools in mainland communities. No changes would occur with the management of concessions and incidental business permits.

#### ALTERNATIVE B - EMPHASIZE RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

Alternative B, like alternative A, would continue to emphasize ecosystem preservation and restoration, preserving large expanses in relatively pristine resource conditions. A higher level of protection would be provided to both cultural and natural resources by more fully controlling visitor access to and use of the islands and waters. More emphasis would be placed on preservation treatment and monitoring of cultural resources. Increased opportunities might be provided for applied research that relates to park management; general research would only be encouraged if it has minimal impacts on the landscape. Partnerships would be expanded with governmental agencies, educational institutions, and others to educate people and bring the island experience to the public, and to facilitate resource stewardship and applied research.

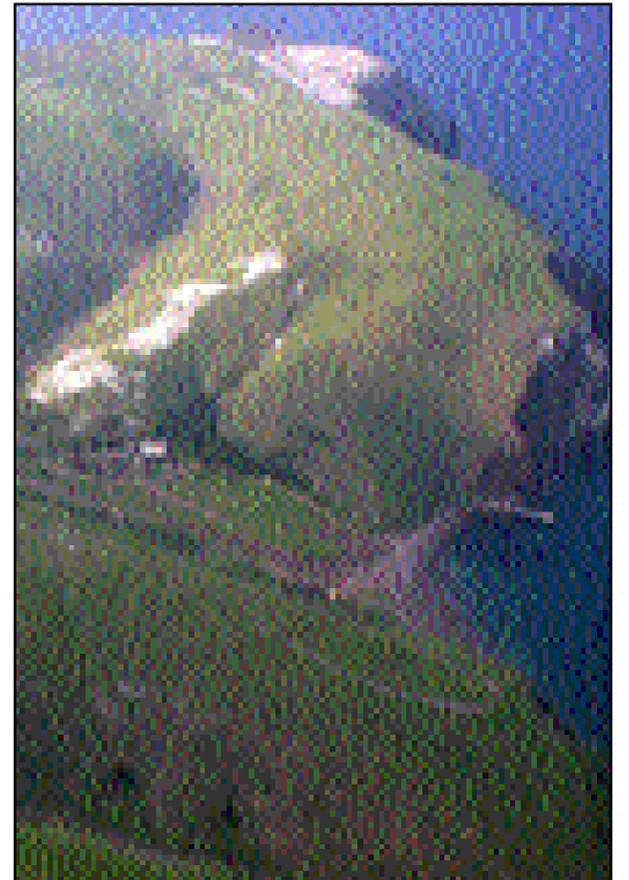
More wildland, dispersed visitor use opportunities would be provided under alternative B than currently exist. In addition, expanded use of mainland facilities would be encouraged, with increased opportunities provided for visitors, such as distance-learning programs and video telecasts. Increased efforts would be made to provide education programs that focus on all grade levels and adults throughout the adjacent mainland communities.

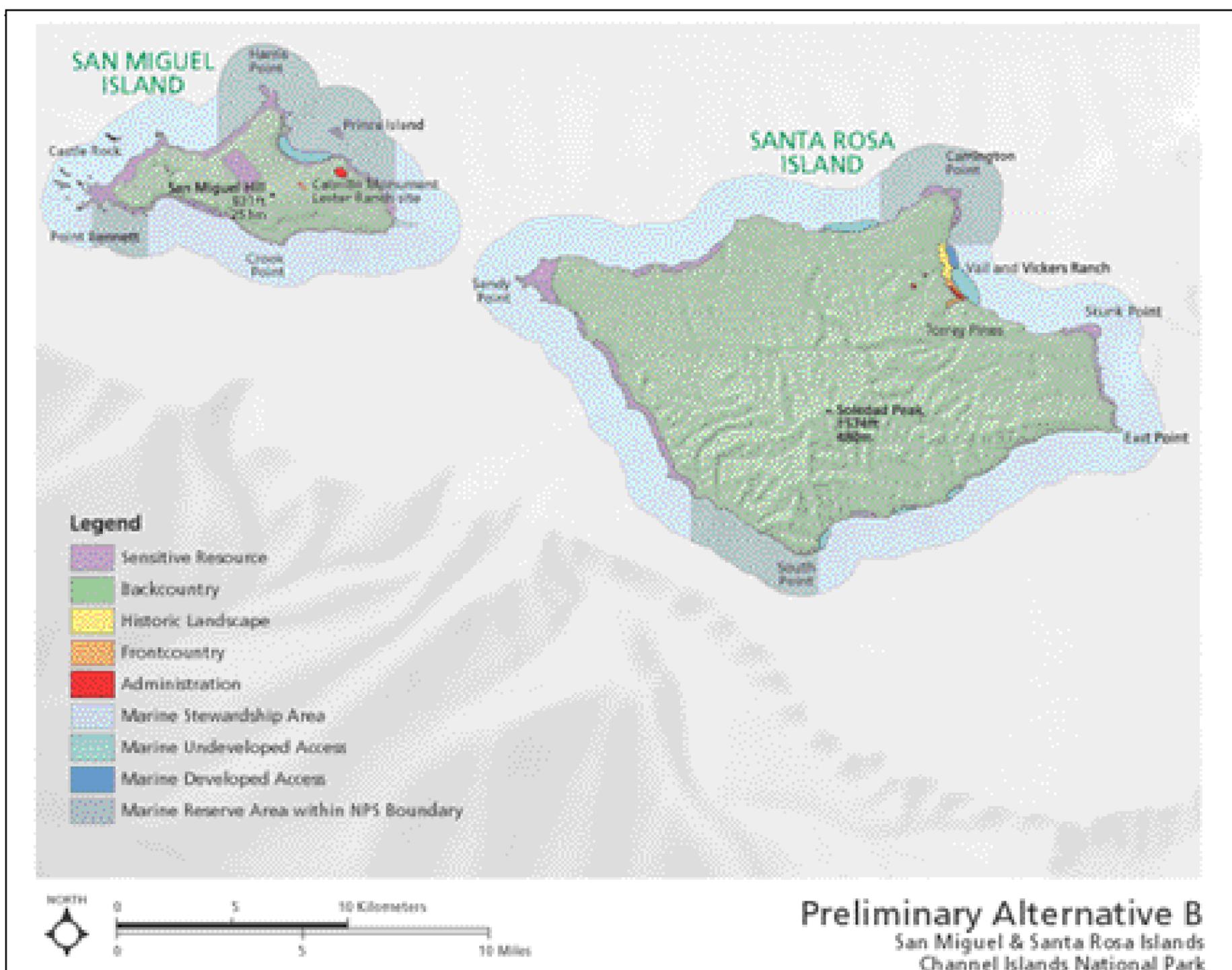
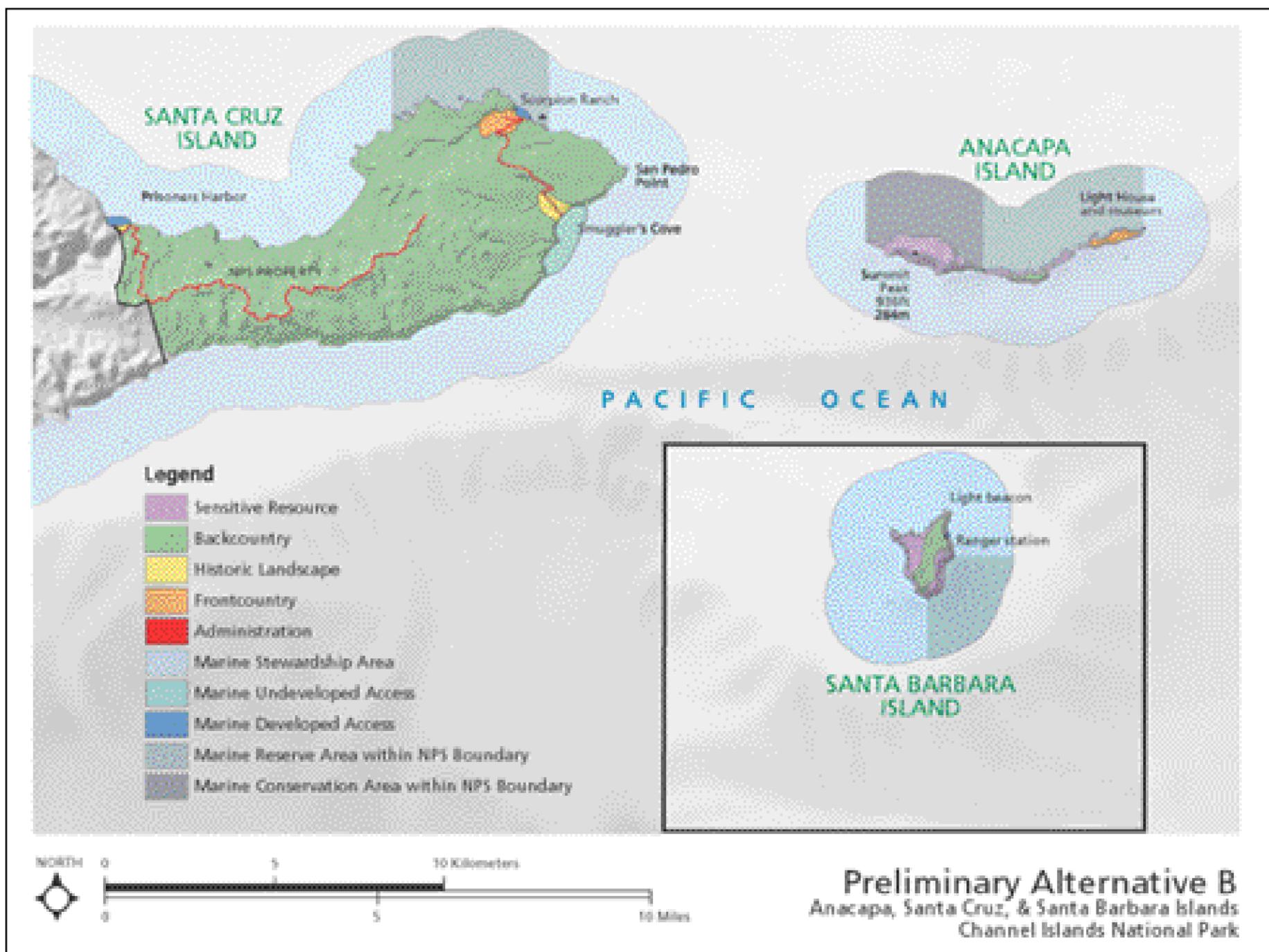
Minimal new development would occur on the islands under this alternative. Limited new facilities might be built on the islands for specific resource protection and management purposes, and new facilities would be provided for the convenience of visitors only if there was no resource impact. There would be few changes in the transportation methods used to reach the islands or travel on the islands. Only those roads needed for administering and protecting resources on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa would be maintained after 2011.

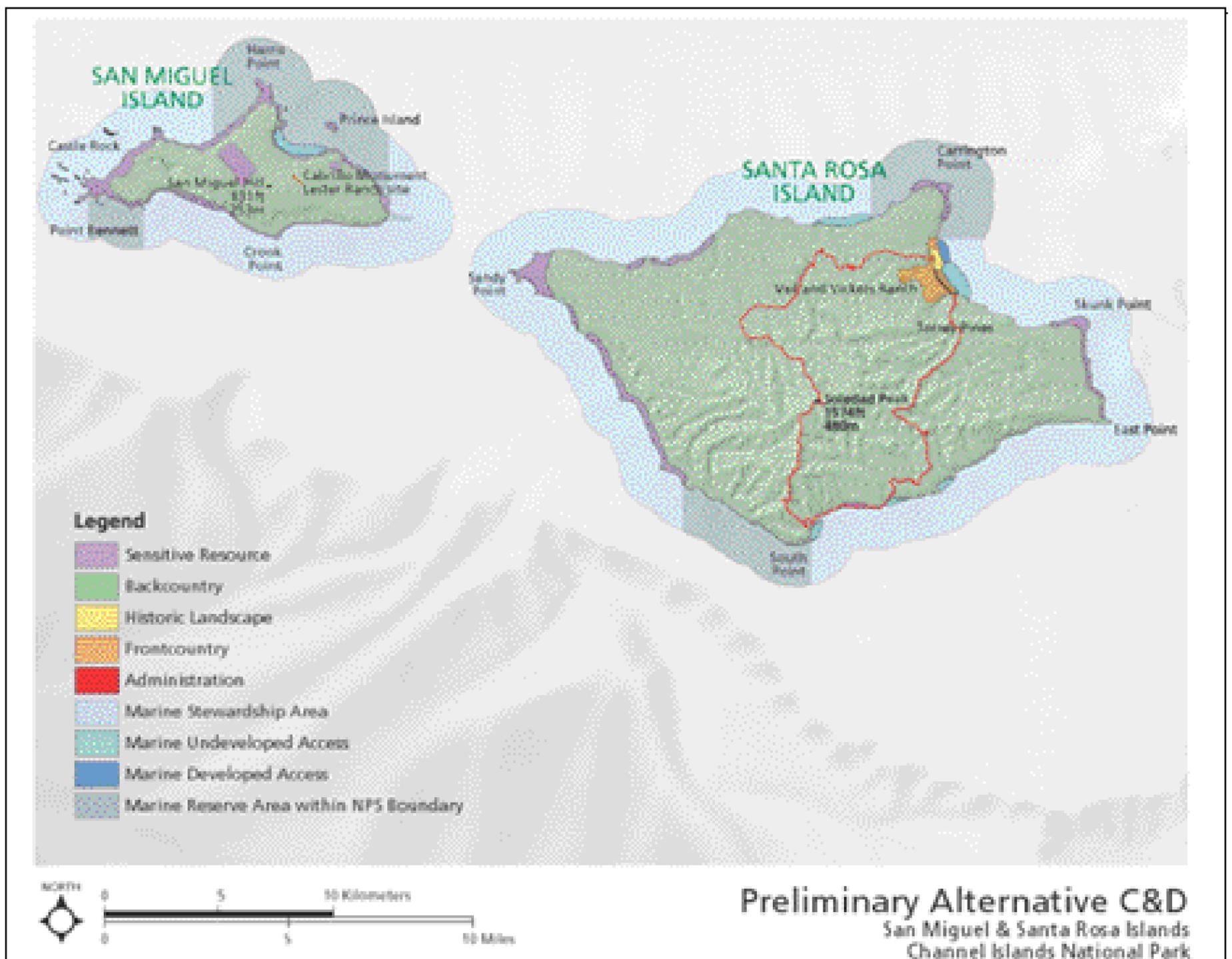
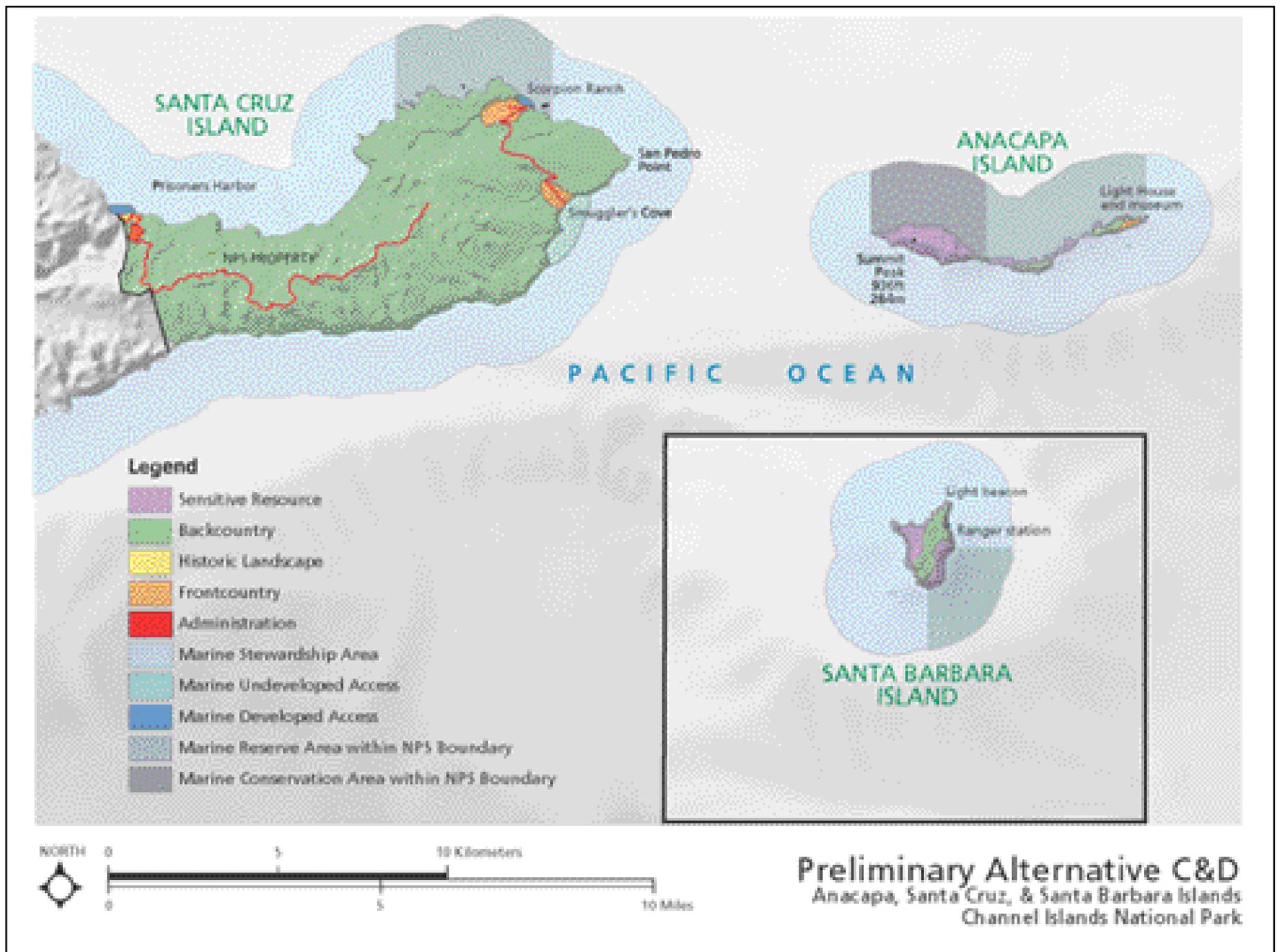
Concessioners and incidental business permit operators that use sustainable practices and are more ecologically sensitive in their operations would be encouraged.

Examples of actions that might be undertaken under this alternative include the following:

- Permitting no beach camping on NPS lands on Santa Cruz.
- Reducing, altering, or prohibiting areas where beach camping is permitted on Santa Rosa to prevent resource damage from occurring.
- Removing the airstrip at Smugglers on Santa Cruz and restoring the area.
- Closing the East Anacapa campground.
- Restoring many of the roads on Santa Rosa or converting them to trails (after 2011).
- Restoring some secondary roads on Santa Cruz or converting them to trails.
- Expanding the Point Bennett research station on San Miguel to support more researchers.
- Adaptively using some of the ranch facilities at Becher's Bay on Santa Rosa for a visitor contact station and for administrative and management purposes.
- Establishing, in cooperation with other partners in the southern California, off-site interpretation and information on the mainland.







**ALTERNATIVE C - EMPHASIZE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ON THE ISLANDS**

Alternative C would emphasize life-long learning and education opportunities and scientific research on the islands. The park would be viewed as a destination for education and learning. As in the other alternatives, resource stewardship would continue to be of paramount concern in all activities. Historic buildings would be rehabilitated and adaptively reused, primarily as facilities for research and education programs. Visitors and students would participate in archeological investigations and building/landscape preservation. Research would be encouraged to assist managers, to further science, and to educate the public. Partnerships would be sought to provide educational and research opportunities on the islands.

Although people would still come to the islands to recreate, under alternative C the focus of the visitor experience would be on learning and studying the park's natural and cultural resources. There would be more in-depth, hands-on learning activities provided, as well as opportunities to work with researchers, such as helping to restore areas. Living history programs, craft demonstrations, and cultural programs related to island history (e.g., Chumash culture, ranching, U.S. Coast Guard light station period) could be provided. Learning opportunities would be provided for

all age groups. Outreach efforts would focus on educational groups and institutions on the mainland.

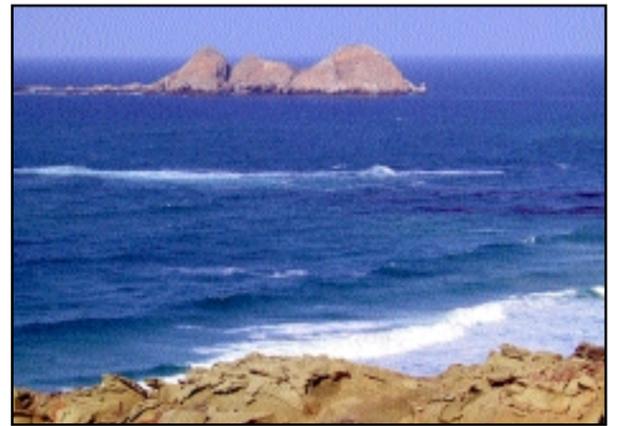
New facilities could be built, or existing facilities would be adaptively used, on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa to support education and research efforts, as well as to aid management and resource stewardship. There would be no changes in transportation methods used to reach the islands. A larger road system would be maintained in this alternative than in alternative B to administer the islands, protect resources, and support education and research programs.

The National Park Service would continue to permit concession and incidental permits for selected activities, such as guiding and eco-tourism/environmental education.

Examples of actions that might be undertaken under alternative C include the following:

- Establishing underwater trails.
- Building a science and education field station at Smuggler's Cove on Santa Cruz.
- Building a pier at Smugglers to support the field station.

- Providing a Chumash cultural site at Prisoner's Harbor.
- Providing a campground at Prisoner's Harbor.
- Permitting beach camping on designated sites on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa.
- Establishing a science and education field station and an Environmental Education Center at Becher's Bay on Santa Rosa.
- Establishing a field station for education and researchers at Johnson's Lee on Santa Rosa.
- Expanding the Point Bennett research station on San Miguel to support more researchers.
- Establishing close links with the Mediterranean ecosystem learning center.
- Establishing volunteer/researcher camps on Santa Cruz and/or Santa Rosa Islands.



**ALTERNATIVE D - PROVIDE A DIVERSITY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISITOR ENJOYMENT AND APPRECIATION OF THE ISLANDS**

Under alternative D more opportunities than currently exist would be provided to visitors to access and enjoy more of the park. The park would be easier and more convenient to visit, and visitors would have more choices and opportunities to explore the islands, which would encourage visitors who have not come to the islands before. As in the other alternatives, resource stewardship would continue to be of paramount concern in all activities. A high level of effort would be devoted to cultural resource protection and preservation efforts, although in this alternative visitors would have more access to historic structures and a wider diversity of preservation treatments would occur, including rehabilitation, restoration, and possibly reconstruction of historic structures. Applied research for management purposes would continue but would be limited. Partnerships would be sought with businesses, tourism organizations, community recreation programs, and others to provide high-quality visitor experiences on the islands.

Visitors would have the opportunity to enjoy a wider range of experiences on the islands than currently exist, although the focus would be on experiences that relate to park resources and are not readily available elsewhere. These experiences might include overnight accommodations (besides camping), bicycling and horseback riding on Santa Rosa, vehicle tours on Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz, and specialized tours (e.g., sailing, diving). There would be an increased emphasis on multi-island experiences, such as island-to-island kayaking and multiday mini-cruises. Visitors would be encouraged to come to more of the islands during seasons other than summer. However, visitor use levels would be carefully managed to ensure that resource impacts were minimized and quality experiences were provided. Outreach and education efforts would also increase, providing information about the islands and visitor opportunities to the general public on the mainland and islands.

To support more diverse opportunities for visitors, new facilities might be built or existing facilities might be adaptively used. These facilities could include trails, campsites, piers, visitor contact stations, hostels/dorms, and huts. Field camps or other facilities also might be provided for researchers. New transportation methods, such as additional air service and multiday cruises, would be encouraged to make it easier and more convenient for visitors to reach the islands. Increased opportunities also would be provided for visitors to access the northernmost islands. A relatively large road system would be maintained on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa for visitors to see the islands and to administer and protect resources.

New concessions and other commercial uses would be permitted to expand quality visitor experiences on the islands. These businesses could include lodging and food service, rentals, specialized tours, outfitting, and ranching.

Possible examples of actions that could be taken under alternative D include the following:

- Providing a campground at Prisoner's Harbor on Santa Cruz.
- Possibly permitting bicycles on Santa Rosa's roads on a phased, trial basis.
- Allowing vehicular day tours on Santa Cruz's roads.
- Allowing visitors to fly to the airstrip at the main ranch on San Miguel and to the Dry Lake Bed and to take escorted tours to see the pinnipeds at Point Bennett.
- Permitting beach camping on designated sites on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa.
- Providing water at the campground on Santa Barbara.

- Permitting primitive camping on Frenchy's on West Anacapa.
- Providing limited, escorted day tours on Middle Anacapa.
- Replacing the East Anacapa campground by a reconstruction of the historic U.S. Coast Guard quarters, which would serve as a visitor hostel/dorm facility; however, keeping two to three campsites for kayakers.
- Possibly providing underwater interpretive trails, such as at East Anacapa.
- Adapting Becher's Bay Ranch on Santa Rosa into a demonstration/dude ranch and/or bed- and-breakfast.
- Providing a hut system on the far reaches of Santa Rosa.
- Establishing a campground and ranger station at Johnson's Lee on Santa Rosa.
- Seeking a new boat concession in the Los Angeles area to provide another opportunity for people to visit the park.
- Establishing an offsite visitor center on the mainland in cooperation with other partners in Los Angeles.



**GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN SCHEDULE**

Step	Planning Activity	Dates	Public Involvement Opportunities
1	Set the stage for planning: Reaffirm purpose, significance, and mission of the park; determine issues and concerns.	Summer 2001 to Winter 2002	Attend public meetings and voice your concerns using a response form.
where we are now	2 Develop preliminary management alternatives: Identify a range of reasonable alternatives for the park's future, assess their effects, analyze public reactions, and select a preferred alternative.	Winter 2002 to Fall 2002	Provide comments on the initial alternatives using a response form. Attend public meetings and provide comments.
3	Prepare and publish <i>Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i> : Prepare draft describing the planning, alternatives, and impacts; distribute to the public.	Fall 2002 to Fall 2003	Provide written comments on the draft document. Attend public meetings and provide comments.
4	Revise and publish <i>Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i> : Analyze comments, prepare responses to comments, revise draft document, distribute to the public.	Fall 2003 to Summer 2004	
5	Implement the approved plan: Prepare and issue Record of Decision and implement plan as funding allows.	Summer 2004 and beyond	Stay involved throughout the implementation of the approved plan.



### SUMMARY OF THE ALTERNATIVES

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<b>Overall Concept</b>	Continues current management.	Increases the emphasis on resource stewardship and preservation of wildland values.	Emphasizes life-long learning, education, and scientific research on the islands.	Emphasizes providing more opportunities to enjoy the park and encouraging visitors who have not visited the park before to access and enjoy the park.
<b>Natural Resources</b>	Continues to emphasize ecosystem preservation and restoration; resource stewardship; preservation of natural landscapes continues to be of paramount importance	Same as alternative A but more active management of visitor access and uses of park lands and waters.	Same as alternative A.	Same as alternative A.
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	Continues focus on protection of archeological sites and preservation of historic structures and landscapes.	Same as alternative A but more active management of visitor access and use of park lands, and more emphasis on preservation treatment and monitoring.	Same as alternative A but more emphasis on involving visitors in archeological investigations and building/landscape preservation.	Same as alternative A, but a wider diversity of preservation treatments would occur.
<b>Research</b>	Limited opportunities for research would continue.	Increased opportunities for applied research related to park management.	Increased opportunities for applied and general science projects.	Limited opportunities for research would continue.
<b>Visitor Uses &amp; Experience</b>	Efforts to encourage visitors to come to the islands and to assist with their activities would continue.	More wildland, dispersed use opportunities; use of mainland facilities encouraged.	Focus on learning and studying the park and its resources; provide opportunities for life-long learning (children to adults).	Wider range of opportunities for visitors to enjoy the islands, including overnight use, bicycling, vehicle tours, and multi-island trips.
<b>Access</b>	Existing air and water transportation methods continue; no changes in the islands' road systems.	Existing air and water transportation methods continue; limited road system maintained on Santa Rosa & Santa Cruz after 2011.	Existing air and water transportation methods continue; a larger road system maintained on Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz than in alternative B.	Additional access provided, including air service and multiday cruises; a larger road system maintained on Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz than in alternatives B and C.
<b>Island Facilities</b>	Existing facilities maintained; no major new facilities.	Existing facilities maintained; minimal new development for resource protection and management purposes.	Existing facilities adaptively used and/or new facilities built on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa to support education and research efforts.	Existing facilities adaptively used and/or new facilities built to support visitors on Anacapa, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa (e.g., huts, hostels, piers).
<b>Mainland Activities</b>	Public outreach and education programs continue, focusing on schools.	Increased outreach and education programs for the general public, increased use of mainland facilities.	Increased outreach and education programs focused on educational groups; increased use of mainland facilities.	Increased outreach and education programs for the general public, increased use of mainland facilities.
<b>Concessions</b>	Existing concessioner operations would continue.	Concessioners encouraged to adopt sustainable practices.	Same as alternative A.	New concessions and new services provided.

Thank you for your interest in Channel Islands National Park!

