

## Superintendent's Park Report

Every year the park staff and I like to provide a brief summary of our work on behalf of the American public, including plans for the coming year. Unfortunately, there is just not enough room to include everything nor go into great detail on the subjects we do provide. If you are interested in more information, please contact the park or visit our website: [nps.gov/chis](http://nps.gov/chis).



Anacapa Island

## Interpretation and Education



Ocean webcam, Anacapa Island



Volunteers, Anacapa Island



Channel Islands Live, Anacapa Island

### Accomplishments:

- A National Park Service (NPS) report shows that more than 277,500 visitors spent over \$24 million in Channel Islands National Park and the nearby communities. That spending supported more than 300 jobs in the area.
- Connected to nearly 313,702 people in over 47 community programs and special events.
- Provided 441 Parks as Classrooms programs to over 15,000 students.
- Installed the new underwater Ocean Webcam on Anacapa Island that provides views of the one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world, the kelp forest: [nps.gov/chis/webcams](http://nps.gov/chis/webcams)
- Channel Islands Live interactive broadcasts reached students from schools across the country.
- Installed new audio-video equipment for the Channel Islands Live Dive program to increase the reliability of the live video and allow for remote interactive broadcasts anywhere in the world.
- 1,154 volunteers donated 73,812 hours to Channel Islands National Park, which is the equivalent to more than 35 full-time employees. 96 percent of volunteer time was spent providing interpretive opportunities for our visitors and monitoring and protecting our resources.
- Hosted the From Shore to Sea Lecture Series for the ninth year.

- Improved interpretive services on Santa Rosa Island with the new *Santa Rosa Island Interpretive Guide* publication that describes the natural and cultural history of the island. Implemented ranch tours by volunteers.
- Published a new edition of the Santa Cruz Island Interpretive Guide with new sections on Prisoners Harbor and farm implements.
- Translated park brochure, newspaper, and island hiking guides into nine different languages.
- Designed and installed new welcome and informational signs at the visitor center.
- Established new social media pages for the public: [nps.gov/chis/social-media.htm](http://nps.gov/chis/social-media.htm)
- Expanded resources available to teachers on the park website: [nps.gov/chis/forteachers/for-teachers.htm](http://nps.gov/chis/forteachers/for-teachers.htm)
- Updated the multimedia webpages with new videos and improved video player: [nps.gov/chis/photosmultimedia/index.htm](http://nps.gov/chis/photosmultimedia/index.htm)
- Park stories were carried in over 1,540 television, print, and radio media including *NBC Nightly News*, *National Geographic*, Associated Press, United Press International, and *Sunset Magazine*.
- Implemented outreach program to educate boaters about marine protected areas in the park and marine sanctuary.

### Future Plans

- Install new ocean exhibits in mainland visitor center tower.
- Design and install new identification and directional signs for the entire park.
- Expand Channel Islands Live interactive programs to reach more schools across the country.
- Develop seabird lessons for grades K-12 and marine protected areas high school lessons.
- Develop *Island of the Blue Dolphins* web portal for teachers, students, and the public.
- Develop ocean web portal for the NPS website.



Parks as Classrooms program

## Cultural Resources



Smugglers Ranch, Santa Cruz Island



Corrals, Prisoners Harbor, Santa Cruz Island

### Accomplishments:

- Rehabilitation and seismic retrofit of the historic Smugglers Cove ranch house on Santa Cruz Island was completed.
- The park's preservation crew constructed a corral complex at Prisoners Harbor—incorporating the old scale house, loading chute, and squeeze chute—to help interpret the ranching era at this location on Santa Cruz Island.
- This same crew restored steel windows in four historic structures on Anacapa Island.
- Students from University of California,

- Santa Barbara and Penn State University completed a two-year archeological survey of the inland portion of Santa Rosa Island. Over 5,215 acres were surveyed and 59 new sites were recorded.
- An NPS and volunteer underwater archeology team continued efforts to map the shipwreck of the *Spirit of America*, a converted minesweeper that sank off the coast of Santa Cruz Island.
- Cataloged over 56,000 items for the park archive.

### Future Plans

- Survey the coast of Santa Cruz Island looking for evidence of historic Chinese abalone fishing activities.
- Rehabilitate the 1870s Vail & Vickers ranch house on Santa Rosa Island to allow public use of the building.
- Repair the Santa Rosa Island schoolhouse.



Steel window repair, Anacapa Island



*Spirit of America*, Santa Cruz Island



Schoolhouse, Santa Rosa Island

**Natural Resources**



Native plant restoration, Anacapa Island



Peregrine falcon, Santa Rosa Island

NPS

Tim Haut

**Accomplishments:**

- The effort to restore the largest wetland on the Channel Islands located at Prisoners Harbor on Santa Cruz Island continued with the removal of six acres of nonnative red gum eucalyptus. The project, which extends over nearly 60 acres, restores important habitat for wildlife, migratory birds, and native plants.
- Worked cooperatively with the University of California and California State University to establish a research station on Santa Rosa Island.
- The effort to restore and monitor island foxes on three park islands (San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz) continues. Island foxes were saved from near extinction following an over 90 percent decline due to golden eagle predation in the 1990s. San Miguel Island foxes appear to have reached the approximate population size that is normal carrying capacity for that island. Populations continue to increase on Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands.
- Planned for and carried out the 8th California Islands Symposium in October 2012.

- Implemented plan to remove nonnative Argentine ants from Santa Cruz Island. This project is in partnership with The Nature Conservancy.
- Continued the control of nonnative iceplant on Anacapa Island and planted thousands of native plants to restore the island.
- Several milestones were reached in the reestablishment of bald eagles, including the first 2nd generation natural hatch and fledging of a chick (born to A-49 who was the first natural hatch in 2006) and the 40<sup>th</sup> chick tagged in a park bald eagle nest.
- The peregrine falcon restoration program reached a milestone with falcons nesting on all park islands.
- Completed the Santa Cruz Island Scorpion Rock seabird restoration project.
- Installed two weather stations at Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands.
- Working with researchers at USGS to restore woodland and chaparral habitats on Santa Rosa Island. Studying the effects of restoration on soils, erosion rates, regeneration of native plants, and the hydrological cycle.

**Future Plans**

- Complete removal of nonnative iceplant and restore native plants on Anacapa Island by 2016.
- Continue habitat restoration on the islands for recovery of seabirds.
- Work with The Nature Conservancy to restore the riparian woodland upstream from the Prisoners Harbor wetland through removal of nonnative eucalyptus and planting of native vegetation.
- Continue long-term ecological monitoring programs, ensure baseline ecological knowledge, and analyze ecological trends.
- Expand understanding of the effects of the marine protected areas at the Channel Islands.



Bald eagles, Santa Cruz Island

Kevin White

**Protection**



New patrol vessel, Santa Barbara Channel

**Accomplishments:**

- Increased marine patrols with new 38-foot patrol vessel, allowing law enforcement and search and rescue operations to any part of the park. This boat was purchased with Department of Justice settlement funds from pollution violations.
- Continued interagency cooperation for marine resource protection, visitor safety, and homeland security with US Customs and Border Protection; Homeland Security Investigations; US Coast Guard; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; California Department of Fish and Wildlife; and Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Los

- Angeles Counties.
- Enhanced Del Norte and Anacapa Island campgrounds by replacing food storage lockers and leveling sleeping pads.
- Conducted cross-training opportunities with other agencies for search and rescue and law enforcement.
- Prepared Vail & Vickers ranch buildings on Santa Rosa Island for public viewing.
- Expanded diver operation to support park-wide dive program and search and rescue capabilities.

**Future Plans:**

- Enhance marine resource protection, visitor safety, and homeland security through increased marine boat patrols with a new 29-foot patrol vessel.
- Improve Del Norte campground with new picnic tables.
- Expand law enforcement, safety, search and rescue, and boat operations through advanced training opportunities.

**Maintenance**



Crane repair, Santa Barbara Island

**Accomplishments:**

- Replaced observation tower elevator cables at the visitor center in Ventura.
- Constructed new outhouse facilities at Anacapa Island campground.
- Replaced handrails at Anacapa Island dock and upper landing
- Improved crane system on Santa Barbara Island
- Started design of new crane that is planned for replacement in 2015 on Anacapa Island.
- Installed new solar power system at Del

- Norte ranch on Santa Cruz Island that will provide all the electricity needs for operations.
- Developed two alternatives and began Environmental Impact Statement for new pier at Scorpion Anchorage on Santa Cruz Island.
- Replaced bulldozer for Santa Rosa Island.
- Replaced septic system at Bechers Bay on Santa Rosa Island.

**Future Plans:**

- Replace observation tower elevator at the visitor center in Ventura.
- Complete design for new pier at Scorpion Anchorage on Santa Cruz Island.
- Replace deteriorated wind power generator on Santa Rosa Island.
- Replace deteriorated Anacapa Island dock building.
- Replace outhouse facility at Anacapa Island visitor center.
- Replace solar batteries at Anacapa, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa Islands and solar panels on Anacapa Island.
- Replace air handler at the visitor center.
- Install telecommunications microwave system with Ventura County on Anacapa Island. This system will provide high-speed Internet and phone service to the NPS and emergency services communication for Ventura County fo blind spots along the Pacific Coast Highway.
- Replace two diesel generators on Santa Rosa Island.
- Conduct structural fire assessments of all NPS buildings.



New outhouse, Anacapa Island



Scorpion Anchorage pier, Santa Cruz Island

Tim Haut



Drawing of proposed dock building, Anacapa Island

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