



APPENDIX: METHODOLOGY

To determine the condition of known natural and cultural resources at Channel Islands National Park, Cabrillo National Monument, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and other national parks, the National Parks Conservation Association developed a resource assessment and ratings process. The assessment methodology can be found online at NPCA's Center for State of the Parks® website (www.npca.org/stateoftheparks).

Researchers gather available information from a variety of research, monitoring, and background sources in a number of critical categories. The natural resources rating reflects assessment of more than 120 discrete elements associated with environmental quality, biotic health, and ecosystem integrity. Environmental quality and biotic health measures address air, water, soils, and climatic change conditions as well as their influences and human-related influences on plants and animals. Ecosystems measures address the extent, species composition, and interrelationships of organisms with each other and the physical environment.

The scores for cultural resources are determined based on the results of indicator questions that reflect the National Park Service's own *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* and other Park Service resource management policies.

Stewardship capacity refers to the Park Service's ability to protect park resources, and includes discussion of funding and staffing levels, park planning documents, resource education, and external support.



ERIN MCPHERSON

For this report, researchers collected data and prepared a paper that summarized the results. The draft underwent peer review and was also reviewed by staff at Channel Islands National Park, Cabrillo National Monument, and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

NPCA's Center for State of the Parks® represents the first time that such assessments have been undertaken for units of the National Park System. Comments on the program's methods are welcome.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

For more information about the
Center for State of the Parks®
and this and other program reports, contact:

**National Parks Conservation Association
Center for State of the Parks®**
PO Box 737

Fort Collins, CO 80522
Phone: 970.493.2545

E-mail: stateoftheparks@npca.org
Or visit us at www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/

**National Parks Conservation Association
Pacific Regional Office**

Ron Sundergill, Director
Phone: 415.989.9921

Email: rsundergill@npca.org

Primary researchers: Elise Ferrarese, Ryan C. Graham, Sam Massman, David Barrow, Melinda Laituri, Erin McPherson, Daniel K. Jones, and Lauren Giebler

Writer: Teri Kman

Editor: Elizabeth Meyers

Design/Layout: Paul Caputo

Center for State of the Parks Staff:

Dr. James Nations, Vice President

Dr. William Knight, Director

Kelly Courkamp, Cultural Resources Program Manager

Dr. Gail Dethloff, Natural Resources Program Manager

Elizabeth Meyers, Publications Manager

Cathy Norris, Program Assistant

Megan Lassen, Natural Resources Intern

Erin McPherson, Cultural Resources Intern

Daniel Saxton, Publications Intern

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1300 19th Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036

p/ 202.223.6722

f/ 202.659.0650

www.npca.org



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