

## ***Instructionally Related Activities Report Form***

SPONSOR: Instructional Related Activities

PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT: Anthropology

ACTIVITY TITLE: ***Human adaptation to changing social, political, and natural environments: Historical use and conservation programs on Santa Rosa Island, California***

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: November 4-6, 2016

### **(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY**

The title of this activity is: ***Human adaptation to changing social, political, and natural environments: Historical use and conservation programs on Santa Rosa Island, California***

This trip's primary objective was to demonstrate the links between pre-historical and historical human habitation of the Channel Islands and the effects on local ecology, which is the central theme of our course *Human Ecology* (ANTH/ESRM 332). This activity involved a field trip to Santa Rosa Island Research Station during November 4-6. The experience included a guided tour of the "foxpital" and pens used to reproduce and repopulate native island foxes, a hike to Lobo Canyon and its coastal shell midden, and a visit to Torrey Pines. In addition, we held evening classes where students discussed the day's events and presented on articles related to minority visitation to national parks.

### **(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?**

This is cross listed ESRM - ANTH course that looks at the intersection between humans and the environment through a historical and contemporary perspective. This activity integrated concepts from the natural and social sciences to understand land use, resource management, and environmental quality, all related to ANTH/ESRM 332.

This activity supports the three learning outcomes for this course:

- Describing models for human adaptations to the environment through time.

- Evaluating the impact of humans upon the environment caused by different subsistence strategies.
- Demonstrating effective knowledge of ecology as it relates to human and environmental interaction.

These learning outcomes were fulfilled using a combination of pre-trip class readings and discussions, evening discussions and presentation while at the research station, and post-trip student policy briefs.

### **(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?**

The strengths of this activity included:

1. Allowed students to understand through first-hand experience a number of topics that we had previously discussed in class, including livelihood approaches, historical land use patterns, and environmental policies.
2. Brought students together to create a "team" dynamics where they engaged in peer-to-peer learning, which then permeated into the classroom.
3. The number of days on the station (3 days - 2 nights) allowed students enough time to acclimatize to the island (some students had not been there or have even gone on a boat ride) and fully engage learning. Previous trips to the station were 2 days - 1 night, which were not sufficient to go in-depth into academic topics.
4. Students were upbeat and eager to explore the island.

### **(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?**

1. A need for additional background knowledge on ecological processes
2. Need for additional faculty to "fill in the knowledge" gaps (as it pertains to #1)

### **(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?**

This activity would be much improved with the participation of faculty/experts in the fields of ecology, biology, or/and geology to address the weaknesses listed above.

### **(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?**

1. Students are eager to learn through experiences.
2. Students need and desire outdoor time, which is not only physically healthy, but also mentally stimulating.
3. Outdoor activities and fieldtrips add depth to the theoretical learning that occurs in class.



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**(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)**

Attached below

**(8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.**

Food: Aprox \$1100

Travel: \$2,700 (\$104 x 26)

Lodging: \$390 (\$5/day x 3 days x 26)

**B. ON SEPARATE DOCUMENT, PLEASE ATTACH ATTENDEE LIST (PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFO REMOVED)**

Attached

**C. PLEASE INCLUDE UP TO 6 IMAGES AS ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR SUBMISSION**

Santa Rosa Island Field Trip - IRA #790  
Human Ecology - ANTH/ESRM 332  
Professor: Jaime Matera  
Program: Anthropology

Student participation list

Last Name	First Name
Alessi	Joshua
Chudacoff	Jarrod
Cook	Daniel
Dela Cruz	Nicole Marie
Esparza	James
Faria	Tanner
Ferrer	Jasmine Mae
Fuentes	Esmeralda
Fuller	Tyler
Gutierrez	Amanda
Hoogeveen	Emma
Hooyboer	Aaron
Juarez	Merari
Kanne	Michael
Lennon	Kasey
Padilla	Alex
Sandoval	Maria
Sandoval Hernandez	Martha
Steele	Keith
Stevenson	Teresa
Terry	Kyle
Williams	Rachel
Zepf	Maximilian
Zimmer	Maxwell



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## **Sample student reports**

Student 1:

### **Possibilities of Increasing Awareness of Local National Parks through Education of Students K-12**

#### **Abstract**

According to a study done between 1982-1983, about 42% of whites surveyed had never been to a national park. The same study found that approximately 83% of non-whites had never been to a national park (Floyd, 1999). With an increasingly diverse nation that we live in, it is important that we, as a country, address the causes and possible solutions as to why minorities are failing to visit national parks. It is my belief that through education reform we can help change that. One of the main causes for lack of minority visitors to parks was found to be lack of knowledge which leads to misconceptions about locations of parks, activities available, and benefits (Le & Holmes, 2012). In order to raise awareness and increase knowledge, national parks should be included in the regular curriculum of California students from kindergarten, all the way through to high school. These policies on curriculum changes in California will be directed and submitted to the California State Board of Education.

#### **The Issue**

Santa Rosa Island is part of the Channel Islands National Park Service, and is about 53,000 acres in size and rises to almost 1600 feet at its highest point. The island is comprised of beautiful beaches, tall mountains, deep canyons, and rocky cliff sides, that support a very diverse range of animal and plant life. Through archeological research it has been found that the island had been inhabited by the Chumash Indians for almost 13,000 years ending at around 1820. Not only was Santa Rosa home to an ancient Indian population, but it was also home to ancient species such as the pygmy mammoth, whose remains have been uncovered on the island. In the late 1800's ranching was introduced on the island and remained an ongoing business until 1998 when cattle ranching ended and the last of the cattle were shipped back to the mainland (Service, National Park). Visiting this beautiful national park was really eye opening and enjoyable, and I feel that aside from students and a few hiking enthusiasts, this park is very under visited.

#### **Contributing Factors**

Contributing factors to the under visited national parks, especially by minorities, are extensive. The main reason a lot of minorities fail to make it to a national park is due to lack of knowledge. According to National Park Ranger Shelton Johnson of Yosemite, a lot of people are suffering from "Nature Deficit Disorder." He states that most people learn to recreate and enjoy activities that we grew up with. A strong influence is brought upon us by parents and a lot of newly migrated families from other countries are less likely to start this tradition since they were not raised with it as children. Since so many people do not know what to expect when visiting national parks, this creates major anxiety, which defeats the purpose of a vacation entirely (Appolonia, 2010).



## **Policy Objectives**

The purpose of this policy is to help increase awareness of National Parks through education starting at a young age. By inserting Park topics into the state school curriculum, children of all races will gain knowledge and hopefully curiosity in visiting local parks and parks in other states. Cultural history, geography, natural resources, plant and animal life, and also the health benefits of being outdoors and experiencing nature, are all topics that need to be discussed in class. Visual aids, such as documentaries and school funded field trips will also help. Getting students enthusiastic and knowledgeable about what nature has to offer, can hopefully spill over into their home life, bringing awareness to parents who might otherwise be uneducated on the subject.

## **Policy Options**

Some suggested policy options include the following: Introduction to local recreational activities within a short mile radius of elementary schools in order to get children outside and encourage acknowledgment of nature. Suggested sites such as local parks, hiking trails, creeks, local dams etc. Advantages of this policy option would be increased awareness of nature and the world around the students. Fairly inexpensive for school districts to implement due to the fact that most field trip sites would be within walking distance or a short bus ride. Trips would only take up a small portion of the day allowing teachers to continue teaching the regular curriculum. Disadvantages include the obvious risks of large groups of children in outdoor activities such as injuries and encounters with wild animals. The district would possibly need to ask for extra parent chaperones to supervise the children, which might prove difficult depending on availability of parents and other outside influences. Another policy option would be to include a small section of the history portion of the school curriculum, to be dedicated to talking about a California National Park such as the Channel Islands. Students would be tested on what they learned and would also be taught using visual aids such as videos and possibly a field trip. Advantages of this policy option would be the history and culture of a national park would be explored in detail. Also, making parks a mandatory learning material places a heavy weight and importance in the young students minds as to why national parks are so great. Here students will also learn what to expect when visiting these sites and all the recreational activities that would be provided while visiting. Disadvantages of this policy option are the costs of planning and traveling a possible long distance for field trips. Spending a significant amount of time on teaching about local parks would detract from the basics of the curriculum such as reading, writing, and math.

## **Evaluation**

In order to evaluate the validity and effectiveness of the policy options above, I would suggest testing them out at different school sites of varying demographics. Observations and interviews of classes to see how well they are reacting and enjoying the various activities and lessons could be conducted. This information taken over the course of a few years at various schools could allow the state board of education to come to a decision on whether or not these policies are effective or not.



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**Recommendation**

I feel that the best policy option would be to include a simple mix of both, spread out over all years of education. Various field trips and history lessons incorporated into young people's education could help get them excited and knowledgeable about what the park service has to offer. This in turn, would allow them to come home and educate their parents on the topic and hopefully plan a trip of their own.

## **Student 2:**

**Title:** Proposed Policy Changes that Encourage Minorities to Visit National Parks

**Abstract:** The Channel Islands National Park is invaluable to the ecology of the Southern California Bight. This fact is well understood by researchers, yet the National Park Service has seen a steady decline in public visitation, and a lack of diversity among visitors. National parks are not just ecologically important, they are a source of revenue and a public utility that is open to all. Yet certain groups find it difficult to explore a national park: within minorities, it was found that a lack of information was the biggest hurdle that limited access to the national park (Le and Holmes, 2012). Another significant barrier to visiting national parks is cost of attendance (mostly in the form of fees and fuel costs) coupled with stagnated middle class income (Stevens, et al., 2014). Policies that have already been established (Director's Order #21) and suggested policies (fee reduction/adjustment) will be explored.

**The Problem:** The Channel Islands play as much a role in our lives today as they did for the first settlers of the island over twelve thousand years ago. Unfortunately, certain groups of the population are faced with physical, economical, and cultural barriers that prevent and discourage access to the Channel Islands National Park. Lack of access to the park is particularly frustrating when one considers the natural, historical, and cultural resources that await visitors of the islands.

Ecologically, these islands are integral to the biological fitness of a myriad of species both endemic and foreign. According to Davidson et al., the Channel Islands National Park hosts more federally listed species than any other park in the National Parks System (2014). Historically, the Channel Islands National Park was the landing point for early settlers of North America (Rick et al., 2014). Arriving in the 16th century, European contact brought new diseases which decimated the Native American population (Braje et al., 2014). The historic period had increased human contact with the island in the form of trading and hunting enterprises, culminating in the ranching period from the early 1800s until the mid to late 20th century.

Today, the Channel Islands National Park offers a variety of recreational activities: hiking, camping, kayaking, scuba diving, and sailing are but a few ways to enjoy the CINP. Aside from the rich biodiversity above and below sea level, Channel Islands National Park is integral to the history and culture of the Chumash tribe. Resources are managed through a series of visitor policies, such as "packing in" and "packing out" all of the materials brought to the island from the mainland. All visitors to Santa Rosa Island must sign a confidentiality agreement which preserves the sacred sites that are found on the islands and protects them from vandalization. On the national level, the US Forestry Service has implemented a three-tiered fee system through the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (USFS, 2013). For certain activities, a simple flat fee is paid (picnicking, day visits, etc.) and more elaborate activities

require a permit (boating, rock climbing, etc). The National Park Service reports that 80% of revenue collected from fees were invested into the National Parks system (USFS, 2003).

**Contributory factors:** As per the official website, the National Park Service believes that fees are essential to the survival of the system of national parks (USFS, 2003). Despite this successful use of revenue, Stevens et al., found that park visitation rates have fallen since 2010, and predicts historically low numbers by 2010 (2014). The average cost of park visitation was recently calculated by the NPS: day users spent \$40 on average, while motel users spent \$262 (2011) Having to pay for these expenses can be a tough choice for the American families, who live in a very competitive marketplace. Middle-class Americans are making tough choices, and many would rather save money for groceries than visit a national park. In the U.S., minority groups have grown to become the majority in some states (Stevens et al. 2014). Yet minority groups have little reason to visit national parks, citing that they do not know what is out there and are afraid to venture into the wilderness (Byrne and Wolch, 2009) This fear stems from a lack of information, and it also comes from a cultural need that is not being met. Both Le and Holmes and Byrne and Wolch found that minorities prefer activities that are better suited to a neighborhood park, rather than a national park (2012, 2009). Byrne and Wolch also discovered that minorities living in low-income neighborhoods are far away from the nearest national park, and often do not have the means to transport themselves and their belongings to the area (2009).

**Policy Objective:.** Our objective is simple, and would consist of two steps: dissolve the information barrier between minorities and national parks, and encourage minorities to spend their time and money at a local national park

**Policy Options:**

1) A policy known as Director's order #21 has already been implemented to expand the fundraising capabilities of the NPS.

Advantages:

-The order spells out the requirements for partnership between the NPS and "private parties" by requiring a written contract, ensuring that donations and fundraising fall under existing guidelines.

-The order fits into the existing framework of the NPS' financial policies, while also understanding that the rules have changed. The language of the order states that fundraising agreements are "more regulated, complex, and competitive" today than ever before (Chapple, 2016). The ability of the NPS to adapt the role of fundraising will help with revenue flow, while also integrating the NPS into the marketplace and advertise the parks system.

-A shift in revenue flow lifts the burden off of the public and onto the network of partnerships that are established.

Disadvantages:

-Fundraising can be rife with controversy. If efforts are not carefully controlled and monitored, money from fundraising campaigns could easily be taken by the company instead of being used to fund national parks.

-A private company has very different needs from a federal entity. Companies want to make money, while the NPS wants to protect and promote the natural environment. This could discourage companies from entering into fundraising campaigns

**2) Reducing the fees within the park and bolstering the transportation network to service national parks would have some distinct advantages:**

-Seeing that potential park visitors are “cost-conscious,” a low-cost alternative to the fees associated with visitation ( weekly and yearly guest passes) would encourage locals to visit, who otherwise would not be able to (Stevens et al., 2014).

-Having public transportation reach the national parks in a given area would give low-income Americans the chance to visit a national park, if only for the day. Some national parks like Zion and Acadia have already implemented these systems

Disadvantages:

-Fees are critical to revenue flow for the NPS. It would be a hard sell to convince policy makers to reduce the price of admission if no alternative source of revenue is made available.

-Public transportation works well for day trips, but packing gear and other necessities can be made even more difficult when using buses and trains.

-Some national parks are located in hard-to-reach places that are miles from the nearest hub of civilization. From a risk standpoint, a public transportation organization may deem it too risky to connect their services to national parks.

**3) Outreach programs to promote school field trips to local national parks. This overcomes the barrier of diversity by sampling a group of participants from various socioeconomic backgrounds. A few programs like Park Hop have already been implemented (Besenyi, et al., 2015).**

Advantages:

-In a pilot run of the Park Hop program, both parents and students responded with high praise for the activities that they implemented, and would likely participate in another field trip with Park Hop.

-Gave the opportunity for families to enjoy a healthy activity that directly supports the Parks department.

-Park Hop is an example of a mutually beneficial partnership between multiple “recreation agencies” (Besenyi et al., 2015) that encourages the flow of information to all groups, including minorities.

Disadvantages:

-Park Hop was implemented at the regional parks level, a national parks partnership would be much more involved and cost more money to coordinate and execute.

**Evaluation Criteria:** An adequate policy change has to meet certain criteria. New policy must first and foremost make sense against the backdrop of existing rules and regulations. Director's order #21 follows previously established fundraising law, while also spelling out some flexibility to help forge partnerships with the NPS. Proposed changes in policy must have the interests of minorities at heart, with the goal of providing equal access to the parks. This addresses the issue of cost barriers that exist in every national park in the United States.

**Final Recommendations:** It appears that the National Park Service is open to changing their structure to allow for low-income Americans to see a national park or two. Collaboration amongst the NPS, researchers in environmental and social science, schools, and community outreach programs would ensure a diverse set of solutions at various governmental levels, all with the goal of equal access to parks. In particular, education reaches across gaps between whites and minority groups and teaches important lessons about respecting and appreciating the environment. If we want to secure the future of the National Park Service and our planet, our best investment would be educating the next generation through school field trips to the great outdoors.

### **Student 3:**

#### Channel Islands National Parks and Low Numbers of Minority Visitors

One of the greatest American treasures is the National Park services. National Parks are spread throughout the United States. However, nearly everyone going to the parks are white. There is a large gap with white people and minorities in National Parks. The National Park that will be focused in this brief is Channel Islands National Park, which is located off the coast of Ventura and Santa Barbara County. The Channel Islands have seen a large number of white people entering the park, but low numbers of minorities. This could be for multiple reasons, in particular, the cost of going out to the park, education on the park, accessibility to the park, and other National Park misconceptions. Getting minorities to go to the Channel Islands may not seem that important, however it is something that everyone needs to go out and experience. The National Park Services (NPS) is going to have to creatively think of ways of incorporating a more diverse crowd at their National Parks. Visiting a National Park allows for visitors to have a better understanding of the connection between humans and nature. With this connection it allows for citizens to respect nature and that can lead to policy that is more focused around the environment.

#### The Problem and Factors to the Problem

Channel Islands National Park formed in 1980 and has seen increases in their visitors nearly every year. The Channel Islands have great historical significance, as the islands have been being used for thousands of years. Former occupants of the island included, native Chumash, European explorers, and ranchers as of late. These civilizations have been had a large impact on the current islands today. There have been many outstanding finds throughout the islands teaching us more about how the geography of North America used to be. The Channel Islands are home to the oldest human remains in all of North America. They have also found mammoth fossils as well leading to the hypothesis that the ocean used to be frozen over. Not only do these islands have great historical value, but we can learn about resource management on a small scale when studying the Channel Islands. Channel Islands National Park is home to Island Fox's only found on the islands. They used to be on the endangered species list with dropping below twenty on certain islands. However, due to an in-depth restoration process, they were able to save the population and get their name off the endangered species list. Learning about these events can help others get an idea on how to manage resources efficiently, instead of hurting our finite natural resources. The Channel Islands National Park reported around 342,000 visitors in 2014. According to a study by the NPS in 2008-09, they looked at the visitors going into their parks and determined around 78% of their visitors are white. This is something that was a cause for concern among the NPS, so they interviewed visitors and non-visitors trying to find out what the issues may be. This study is based on all National Parks not just the Channel Islands, but it generalizes the issue quite well. According to the study, non-visitors said that they just don't that much about NPS units, the costs are too high, and it takes too long to get to the park. With the Channel Islands National Park, these would seem to be all the same issues holding people back from going to the islands. Many people do not even know you are able to go the Channel Islands

or that it is even a National Park. Channel Islands National Park may be one of the most expensive NPS units because you can only reach it through boat or airplane. Boat prices can range anywhere from 70 to 115 dollars depending on your stay. An airplane ride is around 1,000 dollars, so yes, the Channel Islands may have some issues with getting minorities without the funds to visit. Since the Channel Islands are an island, it is difficult for many minorities to get there and it would take a long time from driving to taking another boat ride for anywhere from an hour to three hours. The problem is clear, people do not know enough about the Channel Islands and it is just too expensive to get out to the park.

### Policy Objectives

If the generalized statistics are correct, and 78% of NPS visitors are white, then the NPS needs to incorporate policy that will allow the number of minorities' easier access to the Channel Islands.

### Policy Options

1. Increasing education and knowledge of the Channel Islands through community outreach. This could entail having informative meetings in neighborhoods with high minorities. Using flyers and bringing people into the Channel Islands National Park in the Ventura Harbor, so they can see what is going on at the Islands without actually going on the boat. Increasing awareness of the park throughout the community may increase awareness that you are able to go to the Channel Islands.
  - a. Advantages: Through community outreach many people can learn more about the islands and how accessible they are. Adding knowledge to people about the history of the Islands may spark interest and get them to want to go. Knowledge is power and should increase people's awareness of the amazing things they can learn and see on the Channel Islands.
  - b. Disadvantages: People may just ignore the outreach programs. Even if there are flyers or people coming to talk to you about something, they may not be interested or want to take time out of their day to learn about a National Park. Outreach may not always get to everyone, or they may see it as just an ad and ignore it. Some people would rather go to an amusement park or some similar idea then learn about nature and the benefits of it.
2. Reaching out to children at school. Bringing students out on field trips to the Channel Islands through elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. Having teachers tell the students about the history and nature of the islands. The educational system and the NPS could team together and create a program that would bring students out on field trips where they can learn about the island.
  - a. Advantages: Reaching out to students and giving them discounted educated trips to bring them out would spark interest. Having an interconnected NPS with the educational system would bring more minorities out because they would then tell their parents about their great trip. This would not only increase Channel Islands minority numbers, but also other NPS units.

- b. Disadvantages: Connecting with the educational system may be difficult to establish and would cost both the NPS and the schools a good amount of money. If this costs students money, it may deter students from going.
3. Having discount days. The boat rides to the islands are one of the main reasons lower income families are not getting out to the islands. Creating certain days a year where you can get a boat ride for a cheap price. You could also incorporate a national park pass where you would be able to pay for the pass and then get to go to the islands whenever you want with either free boat rides or discounted prices.
  - a. Advantages: With lower prices, it would increase the accessibility of reaching the park. If the price could be lower many more people would go to that option then going to an amusement park which would then cost more money. Lowering prices may be the best option to truly attract people to go to the Channel Islands
  - b. Disadvantages: The boating services would not want to lower prices because they would lose money. Lowering prices might also bring people who don't respect the island and may trash or disrespect the rules of the Islands.

#### Evaluation Criteria

To see if these policy options are viable without either spending large amounts of money, you could look at it on a smaller scale project first. Pair up with a local park, zoo, or other educational site. If you implement some of these ideas on a smaller scale, you could then see if it has benefits to it. Another way to see if these options might work is to interview minorities and see if the issues of reaching the Channel Islands could be solved if these were implemented.

#### Conclusion

Minorities are not going to the Channel Islands National Park for multiple reasons. NPS can possibly solve these issues through increasing awareness of the parks, decreasing prices through memberships and discount days, and reaching out to the educational system and bringing students to the Channel Islands to have them learn about their local history. Teaching minorities about what is actually out there to explore would increase the amount of minority visitors. With all of these policy recommendations, increasing minority visitation numbers will happen shortly. Education is key and once they realize that it isn't that hard to get out there and everything they can learn would be helpful for them. Not only will education be key, but letting them know that everyone needs to escape and there isn't a better escape than an island. The Channel Islands can see increases in their minority numbers if they continue to educate minorities on the great Channel Islands National Park.