

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

SPONSOR: Steven Norris

PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT: Biology

ACTIVITY TITLE: Vertebrate Zoology Field Trip to Santa Rosa Island Research Station

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: 4 – 6 Nov 2017

Please submit via email to the IRA Coordinator along with any supporting documentation at [david.daniels@csuci.edu](mailto:david.daniels@csuci.edu) within 30 days after the activity.

Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!

### **A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- (1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;
  - (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?
  - (3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?
  - (4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?
  - (5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?
  - (6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?
  - (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)
  - 8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.
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### **B. ATTENDEE LIST- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:**

In addition to the report form, *in a separate document*, attach to your email a list of attendees complete with each student major and grade level. This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the title of your IRA activity on the document.

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### **C.IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:**

Finally, attach to your email up to 6 images demonstrating student participation (under 2 MB total) with captions/titles. Please attach these photos in .JPEG format directly to email. Thank you!

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

We took a 3 days field trip to the Santa Rosa Island Research Station as part of the Vertebrate Zoology Class (Biol 310L). We traveled out on Saturday morning and returned on Monday afternoon. This gave us 2 half days and one full day on the island, as well as 2 long ferry rides on the ocean.

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

Zoology classes and labs are often best taught out-doors. This lengthy field trip gave the students some extended outdoor time to engage not just with vertebrates, but also with other island creatures and habitats. Numerous teaching moments were encountered, not just on animals, but also plant communities, conservation, human interactions with natural habitats, and with each other. The kids had lots of time to interact and engage with each other without their electronics. It was nice to see how quickly they gathered together to talk, trade stories or quietly read/study.

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

The concentrated activities. There was some free time to explore and relax, but by-in-large, the students were in constant contact with each other and others at the station for the duration of the trip. It's an excellent group building exercise. In semesters following a trip such as this, students approach me and ask if I have another trip, and if there is room, can they attend. These are very memorable trips for many students.

Studying and working the field allows a level of informality that doesn't work well on campus. That's good for students and instructors.

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

Island trips are logistically challenging, but having run three such trips, it has gotten much easier. Many students in the class can't/won't attend such a trip.

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

My menu planning gets better with each trip (the instructor does all the food buying). I would like to plan more detailed or pre-scripted activities, but the unpredictability of field work makes that challenging.

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

I get better at planning these trips each time. Small logistical issues come up and I'll be better prepared next time. I learn something new about the island or its history each time I visit.

Please enter response

**(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)**

I thought that trip was an eye opener, and I can now with certainty say that I am in the right field. The opportunity to go to an island that not many get to go on, is an experience that I am truly grateful for.

I had the opportunity to collaborate with other biologists and learned about wildlife on Santa Rosa Island, an experience I may not have had without this class. I feel very fortunate to have been a part of this trip.

There is nothing like a sunset or sunrise from the island. Nothing like feeling the fresh breeze and looking at the beautiful views. There is nothing like being a couple feet away from the island fox.

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

For 23 attendees:

Transportation: \$2530  
Meals: \$1035 (around \$650 of this was used)  
Station use fee: \$115

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



California State  
University

**INSTRUCTIONALLY  
RELATED  
ACTIVITIES**

C H A N N E L  
I S L A N D S

**6 IMAGES AS ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR**

**SUBMISSION**

Transporation	\$110 x23	2530
Meals	\$45 x23	1035
Board	\$5 x23	115
	total	3680

Last name	First name
Mendez-Bye	Andrea
Weiss	Jared
Ricco	Karrissa
Williams	Shirley
Gutierrez	Lisette
Dominguez	Samantha
Gaw Ng	Paula
Locacciato	Mikela
Simons	Katlin=
Thomas	Shania
Smith	Macy
Martinez	Viviana
Robles	Roxana
Algoso	Krishna
Zamora	Jessica
Higgs	Kayla
Wilson	Amanda
Tomas	Hauna
Nader	Doni
Kelly	Juliana

# **November 2017 – A class trip to Santa Rosa Island (Channel Islands National Park)**



**Mainland**



**Santa Cruz Island**



**Santa Rosa Island**



# Channel Islands National Park



**The group.**



**The ranch hands' bunk house (where we stay).**



## Dinner in the bunk house





## The ranch complex – active from *ca.* 1840 to 1990s



## One room school house for ranch children

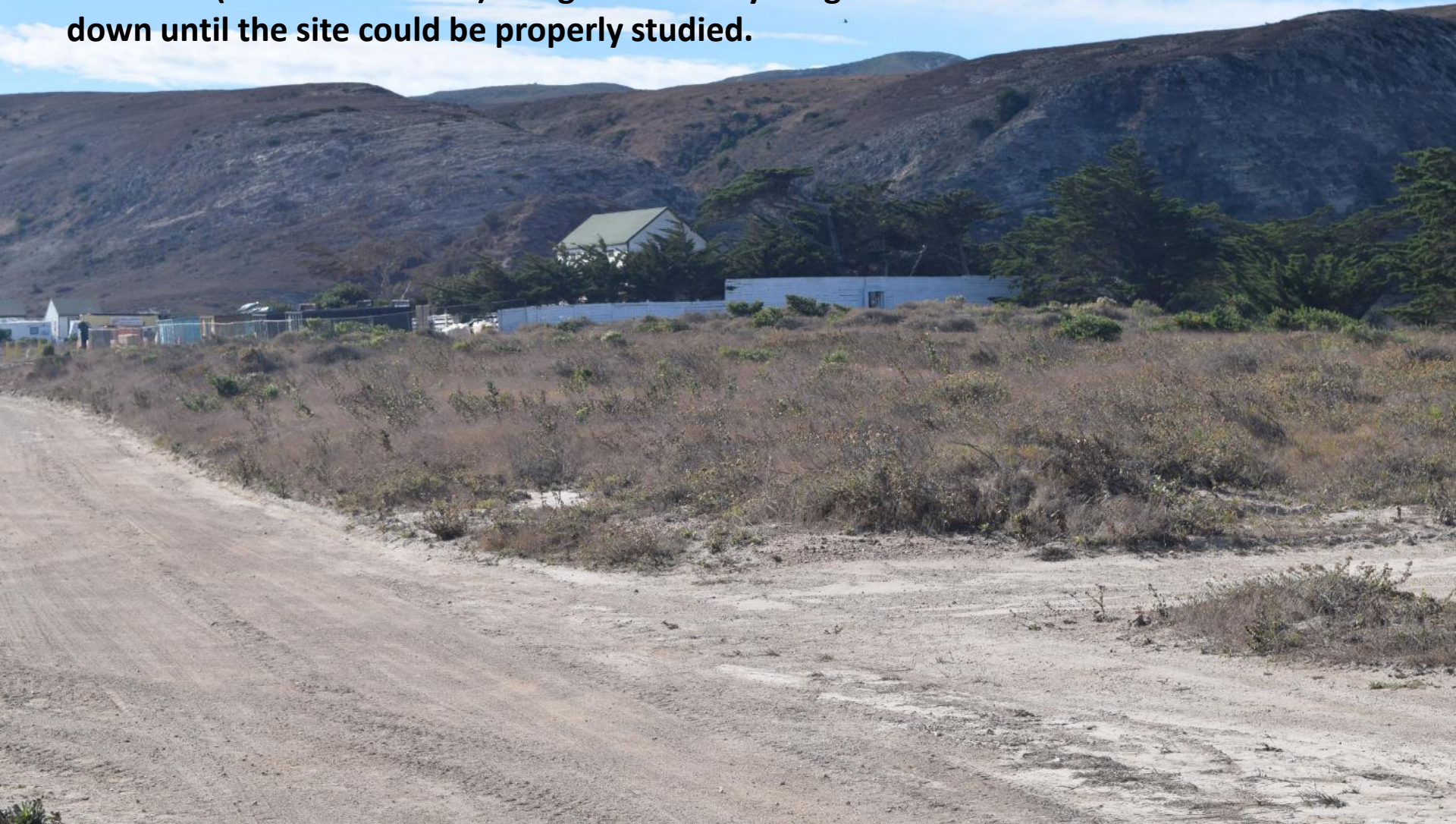


**Ranch owner's house.**



**Ranch owner's house.**

**They were working on a major renovation of this complex when almost immediately discovered it was sitting on a very large Chumash (Native American) village site. Everything had to be shut down until the site could be properly studied.**



**Torry pine forest (on hill) – a species found  
on Santa Rosa Island and on hill above San  
Diego – no where else in the world**



**Torrey Pine seedlings – during the ranching decades – every single new seedling was destroyed by a cow, sheep or deer (all non-native to island)**



## Talking about pine trees



## Ranch complex from the Torrey pine forest



**Pier and ranch complex, also airfield along shore**



## Estuary and ocean – Santa Cruz Island to left



## Miniature island fox – only found on Santa Rosa Island



**Island creatures are often not scared of humans**





## Intertidal zone – as the sun sets







## Bald eagle on shoreline of Santa Cruz Island



## Dolphins rush to meet the ferry



## Dolphins on the trip back



## Humpback whale on the trip back

