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CONCEPT 4: EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED VISITOR EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION, AND ACCESS

BRUCE FARNSWORTH

Overview

This concept would improve visitor experiences by providing more opportunities to enjoy and learn in the parks. The parks would be managed to provide a wider range of visitor experiences and would reach out to a greater diversity of visitor groups of all ages, abilities, and economic and ethnic groups. Natural and cultural resources would be managed to allow additional recreation while protecting resources. The focus would be on providing low-impact outdoor recreation activities.

Cultural Resources Management

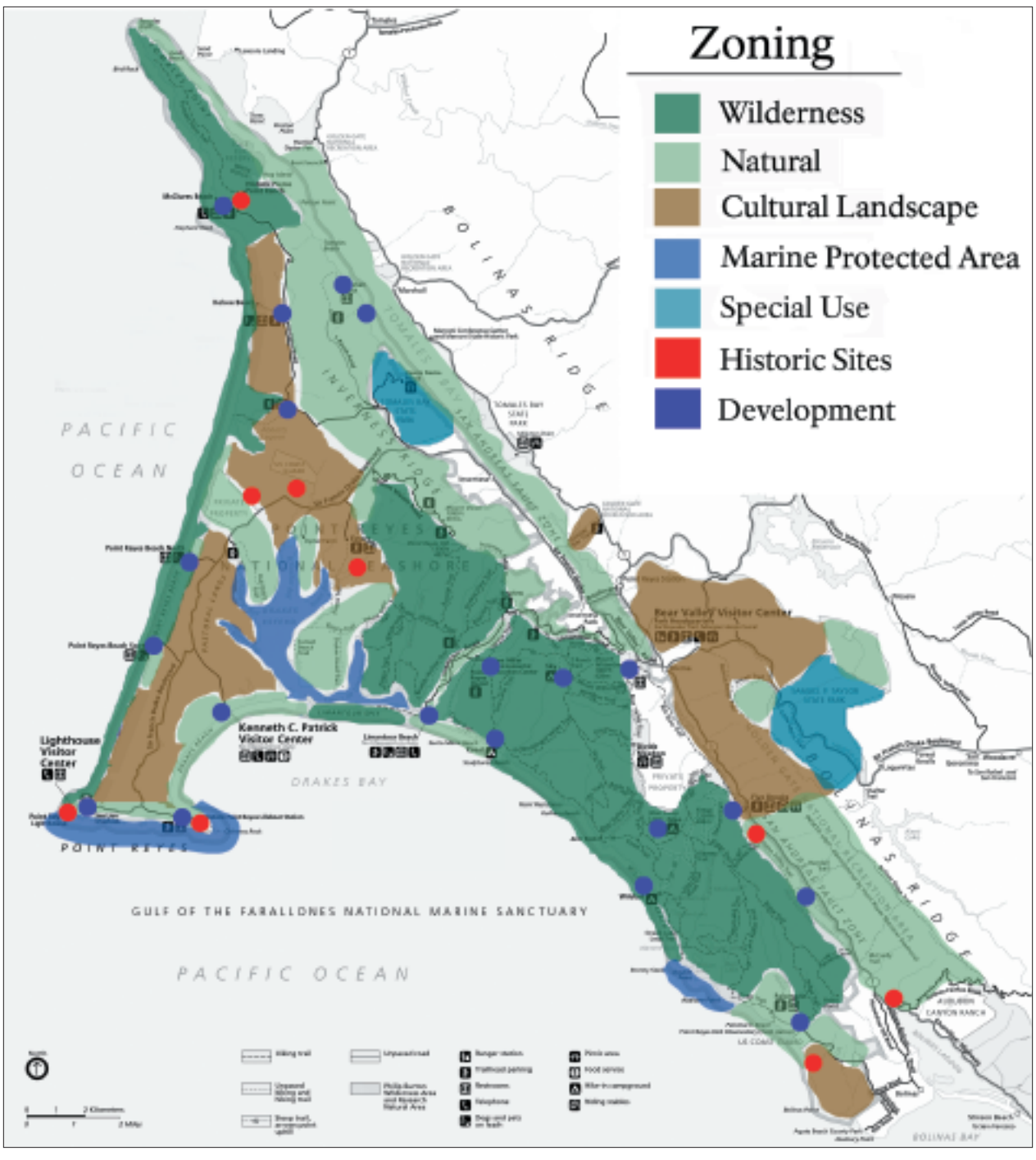
The cultural resource program would continue to focus on protection of archeological sites and the preservation of historic landscapes and structures. Some minor rezoning in ranching areas would occur to protect sensitive habitat and coastal areas.

Natural Areas, Wilderness and Resource Management

Providing visitors with a healthy ecosystem, to improve visitor experience and educational opportunities, would be a goal of resource managers. Exotic species removal, habitat restoration projects and scientific research would be conducted. Marine protected areas and research facilities could be created (in cooperation with California Department of Fish & Game) to better understand and preserve the ocean environment that surrounds the park.

Visitor Opportunities and Experiences

Whether visitors are looking for solitude and wilderness, a scenic drive, or an opportunity to understand the Seashore's resources, a variety of experiences would be offered. Educational offerings would be expanded for school groups and the public through science-based programs at an ocean life education center and throughout the parks. Front-country access and experiences would be improved by managing views and improving road and trailhead conditions. Camping opportunities would be expanded to include a developed campground, new walk-in sites and a wilderness camping zone for dispersed low-impact camping. New trails would also be added to the backcountry, while visitor services would be expanded in the front country. Visitor centers with improved exhibits would operate with extended summer hours. Exhibits would be updated with new multimedia technology. The winter shuttle operations could expand beyond current operations.



At left: Concept 4 map

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE