



7. Alternatives

Introduction

Two alternatives for the Gaviota Coast study area are presented in this section. Neither of these alternatives involves any new NPS actions. No alternatives involving NPS management are presented, since NPS management has been determined not to be feasible for this area (see Section 5, Feasibility).

- **Alternative 1 – Continuation of Current Programs and Policies:** Current programs and policies would remain in place, and it is assumed that current conditions and trends would continue. This will be considered the “No Action” alternative for environmental analysis purposes.
- **Alternative 2 – Enhanced Local and State Management:** The County of Santa Barbara and the State of California could establish new programs and make greater use of existing programs for the local community to help protect cultural and natural resources, agricultural viability and to provide additional public recreation opportunities.

Goals for the Study Area

The following goals for the study area were developed by the study team based on the public input received. They represent goals and values that appeared to be shared by the majority of the respondents in the various public input opportunities throughout the study process.

- Protect significant natural and cultural resources.
- Protect scenic resources.
- Maintain the viability of farms and ranches.
- Continue local control and private land stewardship.
- Increase the capability and funding for protection of significant resources, agricultural lands, and opportunities for public enjoyment.
- Reduce conflict between public access and private lands.
- Increase public understanding and appreciation of the Gaviota Coast.

An analysis of the potential for each of the alternatives to achieve these goals is included in the Environmental Assessment.



Bixby Ranch, NPS photo

Alternative 1: Continuation of Current Programs and Policies

INTRODUCTION

Alternative 1 is the “no action” alternative for this study. Under Alternative 1, the National Park Service would take no action in the study area beyond those actions already authorized (e.g. recreation grant programs, historic preservation programs, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, and the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail). Current programs and policies would remain in place and current conditions and trends would continue. Existing federal, state and county agencies and non-profit conservation organizations would continue on their current course. Land use changes would occur, consistent with county and state decisions under zoning, the local coastal plan, and other existing regulations.

The key assumptions and actions of Alternative 1 are organized under the following categories:

1. Private land stewardship
2. Non-profit conservation activities
3. Agricultural land conservation
4. Regulatory and incentive programs (local, state and federal)
5. Public land management and access
6. Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB)

The following sections provide a description of these current programs and policies.

1. PRIVATE LAND STEWARDSHIP

Under Alternative 1, it is assumed that private land stewardship would continue at approximately the same level of activity. Ranchers, farmers, and other private landowners have played an important role in the protection of the Gaviota Coast's significant resources. They, along with the public policies that guide them, are part of the reason the coast is still scenic, biologically rich, and culturally unique. Some private landowners have developed their

land for residential, commercial or industrial purposes. Others have protected the open space values of the study area through personal initiative, for example, farming and cattle ranching, fencing streams or sensitive cultural areas, or keeping the land in the family rather than selling for development. In recent years, several landowners have voluntarily worked with local and national land trusts to convey agricultural and conservation easements to permanently protect their land from development. The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County (LTSBC) holds easements on the 660 acre Freeman Ranch, 750 acres of La Paloma Ranch, and 650 acres of El Capitan ranch. Easements on 1,400 acres of Dos Vistas Ranch (only half of which is in the study area) and 135 acres of Ellwood Mesa are pending.

Approximately 63,000 acres of land in the study area are under Williamson Act contracts, indicating a level of intent to keep the land in agricultural use for at least the next ten years (see “Agricultural Land Conservation”).¹

The 14,400 acre Hollister Ranch was subdivided in 1970 into 135 rural residential lots of approximately 100 acres in size. Development on these lands is restricted through covenants, conditions, and restrictions established at the time of subdivision; however there are houses and support buildings, built or authorized, on each lot, and there is an extensive road network. Much of the land is grazed through a cooperative grazing program, and is under Williamson Act contracts. The owners have also established a Hollister Ranch Conservancy to manage scientific research studies



cattle grazing, NPS photo

and education opportunities, and a 2.2 mile marine preserve at Alegria Beach to protect the rocky intertidal ecosystem.

The 24,250 acre Bixby Ranch includes two large historic ranches, Jalama and Cojo. Vandenberg AFB acquired easements over much of the property in order to limit development for safety purposes. The Bixby Ranch Company has indicated their intention to pursue further conservation measures, and to maintain a substantial portion of the area in agriculture.

Private land stewardship is enhanced and facilitated by a number of public and private conservation programs that offer funding, technical assistance, or other incentives. Private land stewardship is also shaped by a wide range of regulatory programs that influence what private landowners can do on their land. Some of these programs are described in later sections.

2. NON-PROFIT CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

Under Alternative 1, it is assumed that non-profit conservation activities would continue at approximately the same levels.

A. Organizations and Advocacy

The local community in Santa Barbara County has been conservation-oriented for many decades. Their efforts have resulted in the creation of civic groups and nongovernmental organizations dedicated to protection and preservation. A wide range of groups have advocated effectively for strong planning and zoning measures, against offshore oil drilling, against various development projects, for reduction or closure of existing industrial facilities, and for public land and easement acquisition, among many other activities. It is assumed under Alternative 1 that these types of activities would continue.

Nonprofit land trusts reflect the interest and investment of individual community members in keeping land undeveloped and in protecting

particular resource values. Land trusts have been active in the acquisition and management of land and easements (interests in land) within the study area. These initiatives complement private land stewardship and public land acquisition and management.

B. Acquisition of Land or Easements^{*}

Land can be acquired for conservation and/or public access purposes through a purchase of land from a willing landowner. Conservation easements protect land from development by transferring development rights to a third party. The third party can be a local government or a non-profit organization such as a land trust. The easements generally place use restrictions on lands to preserve resource values. Land with established easements can be sold, however the easement remains binding under the new owner. Incentives for landowners to sell or donate easements include tax credits and deductions, cash, long-term family ownership, and desire for conservation.²

Easements can be acquired for a wide range of purposes. For example, Vandenberg AFB purchased easements restricting development on much of Bixby Ranch in 1992 in order to provide additional safety buffer for their space launches.

Over the past five years, land trusts have participated in the purchase of over 3,000 acres of land and 2,700 acres of easements in the study area. Land acquisition includes Arroyo Hondo Preserve, purchased and managed by the LTSBC (782 acres) and the El Capitan Ranch, much of which was purchased by the Trust for Public Land and re-sold to the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The easements acquired are described under "Private Land Stewardship," discussed earlier.

Land and easement acquisition can be costly, and funding is limited. The LTSBC estimates that \$75 - 100 million is needed to purchase easements for Gaviota Coast lands. Land trusts may be able to negotiate reduced land prices from sellers who value

^{*} Also called "Purchase of Development Rights"

conservation or who can receive tax benefits for charitable donations, and they can assemble funding from a variety of public and private sources. Nevertheless, the largest funding sources tend to be governmental, even for non-profit acquisition of easements. The California Coastal Conservancy, Santa Barbara County Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund, and state bond acts have been major funding sources. There are also several state programs that provide funding and incentives to landowners for conservation easements.

California Farmland Conservancy Program (CFCP):

This program was established to encourage long-term, private stewardship of agricultural land through the use of agricultural conservation easements. CFCP currently administers bond funds remaining from Proposition 12 (which passed in 2000). The state budget allocated \$11.7 million to CFCP for the current fiscal year. The passage of Proposition 40 made \$75 million available for farmland, rangeland, and oak woodland conservation, and it is anticipated that CFCP will administer some of these funds. Within the study area, \$286,000 of funding from the CFCP went towards the Freeman Ranch agricultural conservation easement. Up to 10% of the CFCP grant funds are also available for projects which develop policy or planning-oriented to agricultural land protection, and improvements to land already under an agricultural conservation easement.³

California Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act:

This program provides tax credits of 55% of the easement value to landowners who voluntarily donate easements to a local agency or non-profit. Lands eligible for the tax credit include habitat for rare, endangered or unique species, open space, parkland, oak woodlands, forests, wildlife corridors, agricultural land, archeological resources, and water or land rights to protect and restore fish species.⁴ In 2002, the Rancho Dos Vistas conservation easement was funded through natural heritage tax credits.⁵ Future funding for this program is uncertain. The state legislature suspended funding for the program for fiscal year 2002-2003. It is not certain at this time whether the program will be reopened for fiscal year 2003-

2004, or if it will be extended beyond the end of the 2005 calendar year.

3. AGRICULTURAL LAND CONSERVATION

Under Alternative 1 it is assumed that agricultural land conservation activities would continue at approximately their current levels of activity (for example, Williamson Act and other tax incentives, agricultural easements, zoning, technical assistance). Private stewardship and public /non-profit acquisition of easements are part of agricultural land conservation, but are covered under separate sections, above. Two additional types of programs are described below; tax incentive programs to encourage owners to keep land in agriculture, and programs that provide incentives or assistance with environmental or soil conservation.

A. Tax incentive programs to encourage owners to keep land in agriculture

Williamson Act (California Land Conservation Act of 1965): The Williamson Act is an incentive-based planning tool to protect agricultural resources, preserve open space land, and promote efficient urban growth patterns. To protect land under the Williamson Act, a county or city must first establish an agricultural preserve that serves as a boundary for the area in which the jurisdiction can contract with landowners. The landowner within the identified preserve may then enter into a 10-year, continuously renewing contract with the local jurisdiction to restrict land use to agriculture, open space or other compatible uses.⁶ Under the contract, the landowner pays a reduced amount of property tax based on the productive value of the land.⁷ The landowner may request a non-renewal of the contract at any time. The landowner must then wait a period of ten years while their property taxes gradually increase to the current market value. Immediate cancellation of the contract must support agricultural use or further some overriding public interest, and is subject to tax penalties, typically 12.5% of the full market property value.⁸

Approximately 547,000 acres of land in Santa Barbara County is under Williamson Act contracts, including 63,000 acres of land within the study

area (see Ownership and Zoning map in the “Maps” section). The majority of study area land in the agricultural preserve is located in the western portion of the study area from Gaviota State Park to Vandenberg AFB. Owners of 534 acres of land in the agricultural preserve have recently opted not to renew their contracts.⁹ Some of the areas under Williamson Act contracts within the study area are primarily rural residential land, and the owners graze cattle to retain Williamson Act benefits, reduce fuel loads, and support a rural lifestyle.

“Super Williamson Act” (Farmland Security Act of 1998): The “Super Williamson Act” authorizes the conversion of 10-year Williamson Act contracts in a Farmland Security Zone to 20-year contracts, in exchange for greater tax benefits. Similar to the Williamson Act, the contract remains in force for 20 years after non-renewal. The program is voluntary, and an agency cannot require a landowner to enter into a contract as a condition of approval for any permit or project. Enrollment is not available for grazing land, so use of this tool in the study area is limited. Only 133 acres of land in Santa Barbara County are enrolled in the Super Williamson Act.

B. Incentives for Agricultural and Soil Conservation

Currently, the local community has access to the following programs for agricultural land conservation, reducing erosion, protecting watersheds and similar purposes. Additional programs that can be used by agricultural and other landowners are included in “Regulatory and Incentive Programs.”

Conservation Reserve Program (Farm Services Agency): This program funds projects entailing conversion of farmland to vegetative cover, provision of riparian buffers, and other resource-conserving activities. Farmers who enter the program receive an annual rental payment of up to \$50,000 per person per year for the land taken out of production. Fifty percent cost sharing is also available for implementing conservation plans. Contracts last 10-15 years.¹⁰

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (Natural Resource Conservation Service): This program provides funding for projects that implement structural, vegetative, or management practices to help improve and maintain the health of resources. Farmers who enter the program receive a cost share of up to 75% of the conservation practices. Contracts last 5-10 years.¹¹

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (Natural Resource Conservation Service): The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program is a voluntary program that encourages the creation of high quality wildlife habitat that support wildlife populations of national, state, tribal, and local significance. Through this program the Natural Resource Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance to landowners, conservation districts, federal, state and tribal agencies to develop wildlife habitat on their property.¹²

Wetlands Reserve Program (Natural Resource Conservation Service): The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. Landowners receive financial incentives to enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring land marginal from agriculture. Enrollment options include permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost share agreements where the United States Department of Agriculture pays 75% of the cost of the restoration activity.¹³

Grassland Reserve Program (Natural Resource Conservation Service): This program was recently funded under the 2002 Farm Bill. Ranchers and other private grassland owners who enroll in the program agree to place 10, 15, 20 or 30-year rental contracts, or 30-year or permanent easements on their land, prohibiting development and other activities incompatible with conserving grassland ecosystems. In return, landowners receive annual payments for short-term contracts or either a one-time payment or up to 10 annual payments for permanent easements. The Farm Bill authorized up

to 2 million acres to be enrolled in the program, at a cost of up to \$254 million. The program imposes no regulation on grazing and allows private entities, such as ranching land trusts, to hold easements under the program. The program also makes additional resources available to assist landowners in restoring enrolled grasslands.¹⁴

Cachuma Resource Conservation District: Santa Barbara County is served by the Cachuma Resource Conservation District (RCD). RCDs are quasi-governmental, locally controlled non-profit organizations. They provide technical expertise and educational programs to landowners and the general public to aid in controlling runoff and flooding, preventing or controlling soil erosion, developing and distributing water supplies, and improving land capabilities (CA Public Resources Code, Div 9, Ch.3). Critical resource concerns of the Cachuma RCD include flooding, erosion and sedimentation, water quality and quantity, range improvement, and wildlife habitat. Projects identified in the RCD's long range plan include a Gaviota Creek Coordinated Resource Management Planning process (CRMP), and assisting farmers and ranchers in addressing wildlife habitat issues while maintaining full utility of the land for farming and ranching. Obtaining adequate funding for the district is a continual concern, as the district has access to property taxes only in a small segment of the district, and relies heavily on grants.¹⁵

4. REGULATORY AND INCENTIVE PROGRAMS (LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL)

Under Alternative 1, local, state and federal regulatory programs would continue at approximately their current levels.

A. Local programs

Santa Barbara County Planning, Zoning and Permitting: Under Alternative 1, the County would continue to control land uses within its jurisdiction through its General Plan, Coastal Plan, and zoning ordinances. The majority of private land within the study area is zoned for agricultural use, with 320-acre minimum lots along the coast and 100-acre and some 20-40 acre minimum lots inland.

Agricultural zoning restricts development by designating lands for agricultural use and discouraging other types of land use. However, other land uses, such as wineries, campgrounds, golf courses, hostels, retreats and guest ranches, may be allowed with a conditional use permit; and variances and permits are granted by the Board of Supervisors.¹⁶ Zoning can also be changed by the Board of Supervisors. Thus the level of development allowed by zoning would be dependent on the political perspectives of the Board of Supervisors. Any such changes in the coastal zone require certification by the Coastal Commission.

City of Goleta Zoning and Permitting: The easternmost corner of the study area is within the newly established City of Goleta. Under Alternative 1, the new city would continue the transition process from county to city management and regulation, and would develop a General Plan, zoning ordinances, permitting processes, etc.

Santa Barbara County Coastal Plan (coastal plan): The California Coastal Act of 1976 was enacted to provide long-term protection of California's coastline for the benefit of future generations. The Coastal Act set standards for coastal development and mandated that local governments prepare Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) to address public access and recreation at the shoreline; protection of environmentally sensitive habitat, productive agricultural lands, scenic coastal landscapes and coastal-dependent industrial uses; identification of urban/rural boundaries; and protection against coastal hazards.



El Capitan Ranch, NPS photo

The coastal plan, approved in 1981, established a rural-urban boundary to direct growth, raised the minimum parcel size of agriculturally-zoned land from 100 to 320 acres in some rural areas, and established overlay protection zones for environmentally sensitive habitat areas. Much of the NPS study area is located in the rural area designated by the coastal plan's urban growth boundary. The Coastal Zone boundary within the study area is shown on the Ownership and Zoning map. Under Alternative 1, Santa Barbara County would continue to implement its LCP, and would update it as currently planned.

B. State programs

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG): CDFG has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary to maintain biologically sustainable populations. They are responsible for planning and regulatory activities related to threatened and endangered species, species of special concern, hunting, sport fishing, and related resources and activities. Under Alternative 1, CDFG would continue to plan for and regulate these resources and activities.

The CDFG would continue to manage Marine Life Protection Areas under the Marine Life Protection Act. The only Marine Life Protection Area established in the study area is the Vandenberg Marine Resources Protection Act Ecological Reserve at Point Arguello. Marine Life Reserves are defined as protective areas in which all extractive activities such as the taking of marine species and other activities that upset the ecological functions are prohibited. Allowable activities are research, restoration, and monitoring that are permitted by the managing agency. Educational activities and other forms of non-consumptive human use may also be permitted.¹⁷

California Coastal Commission: Under Alternative 1, it is assumed the California Coastal Commission would continue to exercise local agency jurisdiction over development in certain geographic areas, and review and certify changes to the County's local coastal program. Questions were raised about the

future of Coastal Commission regulation and the validity of past regulatory decisions by a December 2002 judicial ruling that the structure of the Coastal Commission violated the California Constitution. However, new legislation has revised the Coastal Commission appointment process, and it is likely that the commission and its past decisions will remain intact.

California Coastal Conservancy: The California Coastal Conservancy would continue to work in partnership with local governments, other public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners to purchase, protect, restore, and enhance coastal resources, and to provide access to the shore. The California Coastal Conservancy has contributed funding for land conservation and restoration projects in the study area.

Funds are currently available from the Coastal Conservancy's Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project to restore and enhance wetlands in southern California. Wetland restoration is currently proposed or being implemented at several areas throughout the study area. These areas include Coal Oil Point Reserve (Devereux Slough), Ellwood Mesa (Vernal Pools), Arroyo Hondo Preserve, Freeman Ranch (Refugio Canyon), Gaviota Creek, and Vandenberg Air Force Base (Santa Ynez River).¹⁸

State Lands Commission: State Tidelands consist of ocean waters from the mean high tide line to three miles offshore. The State Lands Commission manages these waters and underwater mineral resources. Many areas within the State Tidelands offshore of Santa Barbara County are included in the State Oil and Gas Sanctuary, where oil and gas leasing and development are prohibited due to resource sensitivities.

C. Federal programs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): Under Alternative 1, the FWS would continue to work with private landowners, local and state governments, federal agencies, corporations, and other entities to conserve and protect threatened and endangered species and other species of

concern on both public and private lands. The FWS also offers the following incentive and grants programs for wildlife and habitat conservation:

The *Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program* provides cost share funds for projects involving restoration or provision of wildlife habitat, such as creation of shallow water areas, revegetation with native plants, and fencing off riparian corridors. These cost share funds benefited two landowners within the study area for weed removal and riparian fencing on grazing land.

The *Private Stewardship Grants Program* provides \$10 million in federal grants and other assistance nationwide on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in voluntary conservation efforts on private lands that benefit at-risk species including federally-listed endangered or threatened species as well as proposed or candidate species.¹⁹

The *National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program* provides matching grants for acquisition, restoration, management or enhancement of coastal wetlands. Between \$11-15 million in grants are awarded annually through a nationwide competitive process.²⁰

The *North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program* provides matching grants to private or public organizations or to individuals that have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation programs in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Projects must support long-term wetlands acquisition, restoration, and/or enhancement. Congress authorized \$55 million for this program in 2003.²¹

The *Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund*, authorized under the Endangered Species Act, provides grants to states and territories to support voluntary conservation projects for listed species. The fund supports three grant programs. Recovery Land Acquisition Grants support species recovery plans. \$17.8 million in funding was available nationally in fiscal year 2002. Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants fund habitat conservation plan development. \$6.6

million was available nationally in fiscal year 2002. Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants fund acquisition of land with approved Habitat Conservation Plans. \$61.3 million was available nationally in fiscal year 2002.²²

US Minerals Management Service (MMS): The MMS leases the rights to explore and develop the mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), which lies seaward of the State Tidelands boundary. Under Alternative 1, the MMS would continue these activities on their current course.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Grant and technical assistance programs offered by the NRCS are described in the previous section, "Incentives for Agriculture and Soil Conservation." Hands-on technical assistance is NRCS's primary means of providing land conservation assistance to farmers and ranchers within the study area.

5. PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT AND ACCESS

Under Alternative 1, public agencies would continue their land management, visitor services, public education and interpretation programs at approximately current levels of activity and funding, according to their current plans.

Federal, state and local government agencies currently manage significant amounts of land along the Gaviota Coast. Vandenberg AFB's 99,500 acres are addressed below. The study area also includes approximately 28,000 acres of other public land offering some level of public access. These lands include a portion of the Los Padres National Forest, State and County parks and beach access areas, and University of California land. Many of these public lands contain grazing lands, sensitive habitat, and cultural resources.

Los Padres National Forest: The Los Padres National Forest (approximately 20,400 acres within the study area) provides the scenic backdrop for coastal communities and miles of unspoiled views of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Activities within the Forest are managed according to the Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to allow

sustained use and protection of a variety of forest resources.²³ The management emphasis for the scenic viewshed along the south slope of the Santa Ynez Mountains is to maintain the rugged, natural appearing character of the landscape, while also addressing wildlife habitat enhancement, range management, fuel management, cultural resource management, and forest recreation. The Forest Plan is currently being updated.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): The BLM manages 77 acres at Point Sal, including significant natural and cultural resources. Currently there is no public access to this area. The BLM is also responsible for the California Coastal National Monument, consisting of rocks, islands, exposed reefs and pinnacles from the mean high tide line, extending 12 nautical miles off the California coast. Planning for this National Monument is underway; the BLM expects a draft plan and related environmental documents to be available by May, 2003.

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail: Managed by the National Park Service, this trail traverses the length of the study area, staying close to the coast until heading inland in the northern section of Vandenberg AFB (see Cultural Resources map in the "Maps" section). This area provides one of the most natural and historically evocative landscapes of the 1,200 mile length of the trail. Trail managers have marked the automobile route of the trail (Highways 101 and 1 in this area). In partnership with local organizations, they are expanding their volunteer guide program on Amtrak's coastal trains, enhancing interpretive programs at existing public park lands and along the coastal trail, and working with Vandenberg AFB to mark the historic trail route on base lands.

California State Parks: The Channel Coast District of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for managing state parks and beaches within the study area, including 2,500 acres recently acquired at El Capitan. Under Alternative 1, the state will continue to manage these existing parks and develop new areas, according to current plans.

Santa Barbara County: Within the study area, the Santa Barbara County Parks Department manages Jalama Beach and Ocean Beach County Parks. Under Alternative 1, these parks will continue to be managed according to current plans. Negotiations are underway for the possible expansion of Jalama Beach County Park onto land that would be donated by Bixby Ranch. It is assumed that Ocean Beach County Park will continue to be subject to closure for endangered species protection purposes, and during Vandenberg AFB launch activities. Santa Barbara County also has acquired 390 acres of land at Point Sal, 145 of which are in the study area. It is assumed under Alternative 1 that management planning for this area will continue, and that access will be difficult.

Santa Barbara County has been working for many years toward development of a continuous coastal hiking / biking / equestrian trail from Goleta to Gaviota State Park or beyond, including lateral beach access where possible and frequent vertical access to beaches. Under Alternative 1, the County would continue planning and development of this trail at their current level of activity. California Department of Parks and Recreation would continue to manage the existing 3-mile section of the trail between the El Capitan and Refugio campgrounds. The recently constructed ¾ mile section at El Capitan Ranch would be managed by the county. California Department of Parks and Recreation, in association with Santa Barbara County Parks, would continue the engineering study that is currently underway on another 3-mile section between Gaviota campground and San Onofre Canyon.

Santa Barbara County owns and manages the Tajiguas Landfill and the adjacent Baron Canyon Ranch. The landfill is expected to be in operation under current permits until 2006; the County has a pending expansion application with the State Water Quality Control Board to allow the landfill to operate until 2020. Baron Canyon Ranch is currently leased for agricultural use, and the county is studying the potential for trail development.

City of Goleta: City of Goleta, Santa Barbara County, University of California, Trust for Public Land, a private developer and others are working on proposals to protect the areas encompassing the UCSB Devereux Reserve, monarch butterfly preserve and extensive bluff lands and beach at the edge of the urban area. These proposals, if implemented, would provide additional beach access and recreational facilities at the edge of the urban area where such facilities are most likely to be fully utilized.

6. VANDENBERG AFB

Under Alternative 1, Vandenberg AFB would continue its commitment to natural and cultural resource management programs and would provide limited visitor access, education and interpretation of Vandenberg AFB's natural and cultural resources.

Vandenberg AFB encompasses 99,500 acres of the study area. The base is headquarters for the 14th Air Force and the 30th Space Wing. These units of the Air Force are responsible for all U.S. Department of Defense space and missile launch activities on the West Coast, including launch activities for the Air Force, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and various private industry contractors.

Vandenberg AFB has developed Integrated Management Plans for both cultural and natural resources on the base. Management goals and objectives for natural resources include

preservation of biodiversity, conservation of biological resources, habitat protection, watershed protection, outdoor recreation, public access, and agricultural outleasing.²⁴

Vandenberg AFB's Native American Chumash inventory and evaluation will continue to identify specific sacred and other traditional properties. Artifacts on Vandenberg AFB are curated at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Through a memorandum of understanding between the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash and Vandenberg AFB, the Chumash may rebury any Native American human remains in designated areas. In 1998 Vandenberg AFB was nominated for the 1998 Secretary of Defense Environmental Security Award for Cultural Resources Management.²⁵

Vandenberg AFB provides limited public access to specific areas for recreational and other purposes. Ocean Beach County Park and Surf Beach are adjacent to Vandenberg AFB, and provide beach access along six miles of the Vandenberg AFB coast from October through February. From March through September, these areas are closed to protect the federally-listed threatened western snowy plover. Fishing is also allowed on nine miles of Vandenberg AFB's coast with a base permit. The Waterfowl Natural Resource Area is accessible to the public on an advance reservation basis. All access to Vandenberg AFB is subject to closure when necessary for safety and security purposes.



rock carving on Vandenberg AFB, NPS photo



historic recreation area at Vandenberg AFB, NPS photo