

# State of the Park Report for Cabrillo National Monument

## Scoping Workshop and Report Development Documentation

August 23-24, 2011

### 1. Introduction

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This document provides background information and methods used to develop the February 2013 State of the Park report for Cabrillo National Monument, including a summary of the scoping workshop process, the list of participants involved in the scoping workshop and the assessments of resource condition, and notes to document why certain decisions or assessments were made.

A State of the Park report will be developed for each park to “assess the overall status of park resources and use this information to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public in a clear and simple way” ([NPS Call to Action Plan](#)). The report is a truthful assessment of the overall condition of priority park resources and values, irrespective of the ability of the park superintendent or the National Park Service to influence it. The purpose of each report is to:

- Provide to visitors and the American public a snapshot of the status and trend in the condition of a park’s priority resources and values;
- Summarize and communicate complex scientific, scholarly, and park operations factual information and expert opinion using non-technical language and a visual format;
- Highlight park stewardship activities and accomplishments to maintain or improve the State of the Park;
- Identify key issues and challenges facing the park to help inform park management planning.

State of the Park reports bring a standardized approach to assessing the condition of priority resources and values for a park, and for communicating the condition summaries. The reports focus on the priority resources and values of the park based on the park’s purpose and significance, as described in the park’s Foundation Document or General Management Plan. The assessments of resource condition are based upon the best available scientific and scholarly research, reports, and publications, which are cited and linked to throughout the report and the associated “drill-down website version” of the report, but the condition assessments also involve expert opinion and the professional judgment of park staff and the subject matter experts involved in developing the report. The in-depth knowledge by park staff of park resources and recent events and activities, plus their expertise from being involved in the day-to-day practice of all aspects of park stewardship, are reflected throughout this report.

The status and trends in the condition of priority park resources and values are continually changing, and this State of the Park Report will require updating as new data and understanding for the resources becomes available. A full revision of the report is expected every five years; however, incremental updates may be made periodically between major revisions.

### 2. Approach and Methodology

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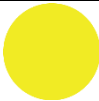

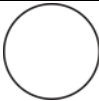



#### 2.1 Definition of Key Terms

- **Fundamental and Other Important Resources and Values:** Fundamental resources and values are the particular systems, processes, experiences, scenery, sounds, and other features that are key to achieving the park’s purposes and maintaining its significance. Other important resources and values are those attributes that are determined to be particularly important to park management and planning, although they are not central to the park’s purpose and significance. These priority resources are identified in the Park Foundation Document and/or General Management Plan. The short-cut name that will be used for this will be **Priority Resources**.

- **Desired Conditions:** A qualitative description of the integrity and character for a set of resources and values, including visitor experiences, that park management has committed to achieve and maintain. These Desired Conditions are tied to the Park Foundation Document and/or General Management Plan.
- **Indicator of Condition:** A selected subset of components or elements of a Priority Resource (i.e., a Fundamental or Other Important Resource or Value for the park) that are particularly “information rich” and that represent or “indicate” the overall condition of the Priority Resource. There may be one or several indicators of condition for a particular Priority Resource.
- **Specific Measure of Condition:** One or more specific measurements used to quantify or qualitatively evaluate the condition of an Indicator at a particular place and time. There may be one or more Specific Measures of Condition for each Indicator of Condition.
- **Current Condition:** The current quantifiable or otherwise objective value or range of values for an Indicator or Specific Measure of Condition based on scientific data or scholarly analysis.

## 2.2 Symbols Used to Communicate State and Trend in Resource Condition

The Status and Trend symbols used throughout the State of the Park report are summarized in the following key. The background color (Green, Yellow, or Red) represents the current condition of a resource, the direction of the arrow summarizes the trend in condition, and the thickness of the outside line represents the degree of confidence in the assessment of condition based on available data and understanding. In some cases, the trend arrow is omitted because trend is unknown (e.g., data from a one-time inventory or only one year of monitoring data) or not applicable.

Condition Status		Trend in Condition		Confidence in Assessment	
	Warrants Significant Concern		Condition is Improving		High
	Warrants Moderate Concern		Condition is Unchanging		Medium
	Resource is in Good Condition		Condition is Deteriorating		Low

### Examples of how the symbols should be interpreted:



Resource is in good condition, its condition is improving, high confidence in the assessment.



Condition of resource warrants moderate concern; condition is unchanging; medium confidence in the assessment.



Condition of resource warrants significant concern; trend in condition is unknown or not applicable; low confidence in the assessment.

### 2.3 Rules for Combining Multiple Status and Trend Symbols

The overall assessment of the condition for a Priority Resource or Value may be based on a combination of the status and trend of multiple indicators and specific measures of condition. A set of rules are proposed for summarizing the overall Status of a particular Priority Resource based on assessments of Status for two or more specific measures of condition, and for summarizing the overall Trend for the resource based on multiple Trend arrows. The proposed set of rules, based on an approach used by Parks Canada Agency to develop State of the Park reports, is as follows:

#### Condition:

To determine the combined condition, each red symbol is assigned zero points, each yellow symbol is assigned 50 points, and each green symbol 100 points. Calculate the average, and apply the scale below to determine the resulting color.

Score 0 to 33	Score 34 to 66	Score 67 to 100
Red	Yellow	Green

#### Trend:

To determine the overall trend, subtract the total number of down arrows from the total number of up arrows. If the result is 3 or greater, the overall trend is up. If the result is -3 or lower, the overall trend is down. If the result is between 2 and -2, the overall trend is unchanged.

## 3. Scoping Workshop Agenda and Participants

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The Cabrillo National Monument State of the Park workshop was held at park headquarters in San Diego, California on August 23-24, 2011. Prior to the workshop, the State of the Park team from Colorado and from the Mediterranean Coast I&M Network reviewed park management documents and various scientific and scholarly documents and datasets to prepare for the workshop. See Appendix 1 for the workshop agenda. The draft report was submitted to the Pacific West Regional Office for review in 2012. Because this was one of the first two reports in the new NPS State of the Park report series, the review and internal discussions about the content and approach for developing State of the Park reports required some time. Data for a number of the indicators was updated for the February 2013 release of the report.

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### 3.1 Participants in Development of the State of the Park Report

Name	Title
Tom Workman	Park Superintendent
Benjamin Pister	Chief of Natural Resource Science
Charles Schultheis	Chief of Maintenance
Jason Richards	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Ralph Jones	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Kirstie Haertel	Regional Archeologist
Barbara Richards	Administrative Officer
Tavio del Rio	Park Ranger

Robert Munson	Historian
Keith Lombardo	Biologist
Kaye London	Biologist
Bonnie Phillips	Park Ranger
Emily Floyd	Park Interpreter
Tom Philippi	Quantitative Ecologist
Stacey Ostermann-Kelm	Mediterranean Coast I&M Network Program Manager
Lena Lee	Mediterranean Coast I&M Network Data Manager
Susan Teel	Research Learning Center Director
Margaret Beer	National I&M Program Data Manager
Brent Frakes	National I&M Program Ecologist
Simon Kingston	National I&M Program Ecologist
Fagan Johnson	National I&M Program Website and Reports Specialist
Steven Fancy	National I&M Program Leader

#### **4. Notes/Comments about Decisions Made in Selecting the List of Priority Resources and Values, Indicators of Condition, and Specific Measures of Condition and Assessing the Condition of Priority Resources**

The internet version of the park’s State of the Park report (<http://www.nps.gov/stateoftheparks/cabr/>) provides detailed information and sources of information for the resources summarized in the report, including references, accounts on the origin and quality of the data, and the methods and analytical approaches used in the assessments. The intent of the “drill-down website version” is to allow the reader to access the large amount of complex scientific and scholarly data and information upon which the assessments of condition are based. There will be some situations in which it may not be clear how the assessments were made based on the underlying “evidence” available through the website version plus the professional expertise of the participants. The information and notes in the table below are intended to assist the readers and reviewers of the report in understanding why certain decisions were made as part of summarizing a large amount of complex data and information professional judgment for the purposes of communicating the information to visitors and the public.

##### **4.1 Notes/Comments about the List of Priority Resources Used in the Report**

##### **4.2 Park Infrastructure Section**

<b>Report Component</b>	<b>Notes/Comments</b>
Facility Condition Index (FCI)	Facility condition data extracted from NPS Facility Management Software System (FMSS): Deferred Maintenance (DM) and Current Replacement Value (CRV) are summed by Asset Category for all assets with “Operating”, “Oper/Obso”, or “Inactive” Status. Each Asset Category’s FCI is calculated by dividing its subtotaled DM by its subtotaled CRV. The park’s Overall FCI is calculated by dividing its total DM by its total CRV. A lower FCI indicates a better condition. To achieve standardization between 2008 and 2012, 2008 CRV is multiplied by (1.7774 ÷ 1.45),

	resulting in 2008 Adjusted CRV.
FCI Condition Status	Good condition rating: FCI ≤ 0.100 Fair condition rating: FCI = 0.101 to 0.150 Poor condition rating: FCI = 0.151 to 0.500 Serious condition rating: FCI > 0.500
FCI Condition Trend	Based on calculated percentage change in FCI: (2012 FCI - 2008 FCI) ÷ 2008 FCI. Up Arrow: FCI improved by > 10% over the 5 years Unchanged: FCI is within plus or minus 10%, 2012 vs. 2008 Down Arrow: FCI degraded by > 10% over the 5 years
API/FCI Scatter Plot	Retrieved from AMRS. For more information, refer to: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/stateoftheparks/assets/docs/Park_Facility_Management_Terminology_and_Concepts.pdf">http://www.nps.gov/stateoftheparks/assets/docs/Park_Facility_Management_Terminology_and_Concepts.pdf</a>
Energy Consumption and Water Consumption	Energy and Water consumption data were downloaded from the NPS Energy Management Database and Reporting System for the five years of 2008-2012. Building gross square footage data were also obtained from the Energy Management database. Data were analyzed, and graphics produced, using some code written for the R statistical package.
Park Carbon Footprint	Text and the graphic were obtained from the Climate Friendly Park website, <a href="http://www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks/parks/CABR.html">http://www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks/parks/CABR.html</a>

### 4.3 Other Notes or Comments

#### Appendix 1. Workshop Agenda

##### Tuesday, August 23, 2011

7:45 Convene in park auditorium so that we can start by 8 a.m. – informal discussions

8:00 Welcome and Introductions – Tom Workman

8:15 Overview of State of the Park Reporting: What we are doing and Why – Steve Fancy

Demonstration/mockups of the proposed products: the State of the Park report itself, a “drill-down” website that links to data and reports upon which the evaluations of condition are based, and a multi-purpose database.

Agreement on what we want to accomplish, and the approach for the workshop.

Group discussion with all staff to get us all thinking along the same lines. (These will be discussed further in smaller groups later today and tomorrow):

- Park Purpose and Significance of Cabrillo NM within the National Park System, including discussion of recent discoveries and relevance of the park.
- What are the Key Resources, i.e., the "fundamental and other important resources and values" for the park?
- What are the key opportunities for learning, discovery, and enjoyment offered at the park?
- Initial discussion, for a few of the Key Resources for which we have better data and understanding about status and trend, about some of the indicators of condition and specific measures of condition and how we would summarize and communicate a lot of complex data and information.

Break

Group discussion continued.

Divide into four Breakout Groups to further discuss Key Resources, indicators of condition, and specific measures of condition, within the following four categories: Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, Visitor Experience, and Park Infrastructure.

11:30 Lunch – Bring your own lunch or make arrangements in advance to have it delivered. Some breakout groups may want to continue discussions during a working lunch.

12:30 Breakout groups continue their discussion of indicators and specific measures of condition for key resources identified by the group.

Reconvene the larger group. Each breakout group will report out on their discussion and findings.

Group discussion to finalize the list of Key Resources that will be included in the State of the Park report.

#### Break

Initial discussion about the management actions that the park is taking to maintain or improve the condition of key resources. What are some of the accomplishments and “stories” that we want to highlight in the report?

Break into smaller groups for further, more detailed discussion about indicators and specific measures of condition that are meaningful and that we could use to tell people about the State of the Park. Identify and prioritize specific data sets or reports that could be summarized as a graph, chart, or map or as a short story in the report or in the more detailed website and database that supports the report.

4:00 Reconvene all staff and discuss the day’s progress, and plans for Wednesday

4:30 Adjourn for the day

#### **Wednesday, August 24, 2011**

7:45 Convene in park auditorium so that we can start by 8 a.m. – informal discussions

8:00 Review lists from yesterday: Key Resources, Indicators of Condition, and Specific Measures of Condition for Key Resources to be included in Cabrillo’s State of the Park report.

Continue discussion about management actions that the park is taking to maintain or improve resource condition.

Group discussion: What are the key issues that need to be considered for management planning, and that we want to communicate to visitors, other stakeholders, and the general public?

Additional time in smaller groups to continue discussions.

Merge and prioritize the list of indicators (that were developed by the breakout groups) for which we want to develop brief “stories” and some sort of chart/graph/summary table/map or photograph to communicate status and trend information. Assign action items: determine who will do what by when for each of the selected “stories” that will be included in the report or on the website.

Allow time for people to write down initial ideas and sketch out possible chart/graph/summary table/map for communicating status and trend information.

11:30 Lunch – Bring your own lunch or make arrangements in advance to have it delivered.

12:30 Reconvene larger group one more time to outline what will go into the report, assign action items, and make sure we have met all of the objectives of the workshop. Feedback from park staff on the process and “lessons learned” that will help other parks as they develop their State of the Park report.

Adjourn the larger workshop, but use the remaining time for people to work individually or in small groups on writing assignments, sketching out possible chart/graph/summary table/maps for communicating status and trend information.

The visiting subject-matter experts will be available Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday to meet with people individually or in small groups to further discuss ideas, compile data sets, enter data into the database, help with analyzing data and creating charts/graphs/maps, and begin writing sections of the report.