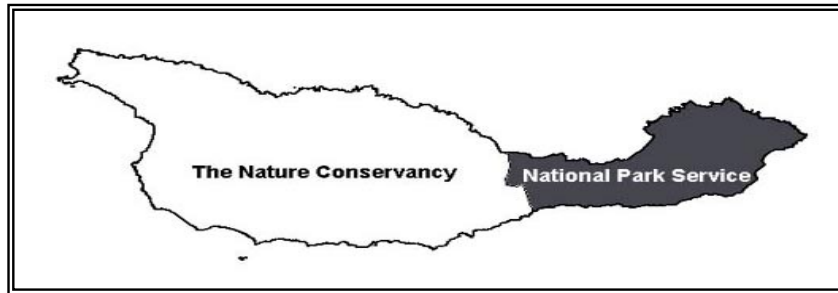


The Nature Conservancy and National Park Service

A Partnership for Island Restoration

✿ The Nature Conservancy of California has formed a partnership with the National Park Service and is transferring 8,500 acres of its holdings on Santa Cruz Island to Channel Islands National Park in the summer of 2000.



Dark color reflects NPS ownership after conveyance of land is complete in Summer 2000.

✿ Involving no exchange of money, The Nature Conservancy's gift of land will more than double the National Park Service holdings on Santa Cruz Island. The 8,500 acres being donated adjoin the park's western boundary and include the narrow waist of the island (sometimes called "the isthmus"). Currently, TNC owns nearly 90% of the island's 98 square miles. After the transfer, the Conservancy will own 46,000 acres, or 76% of the island, and NPS will own 14,733, or 24%.

✿ Through this new arrangement, The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service will be better prepared to manage the island as a single ecological unit. Santa Cruz Island continues to face complex problems, many due to non-native plants and animals introduced in the nineteenth century. This partnership strengthens the two organizations' common commitment to restoring and preserving endangered plant and animal communities native to the island.

✿ There are more benefits:

Visitor access to the national park portion of the island will be greatly enhanced with this gift from the Conservancy. Included in the land transfer is Prisoners' Harbor, the island's most protected and stable landing point. In return, the Park Service will assist the Conservancy with transportation and maintenance needs on the island.