

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