

Natural Resource Protection

California State Parks is the steward of some of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. With the role of stewardship comes the responsibility to preserve, and when necessary restore, these natural systems of state and national significance.

Current Status

Natural resources within the State Park System and throughout California face a variety of risks. Continuous urban expansion sequesters native plant and animal species into protected sanctuaries with hostile boundaries. The introduction of non-native or exotic species of plants and animals threatens natives. This has resulted in many species of flora and fauna being classified as threatened or endangered, risking extinction without intervention and protective measures. Additionally, natural processes lead to a buildup of fuels and prohibit natural propagation of certain species that depend upon the natural fire cycle for renewal or survival.

■ Lands Contributing to Sustainable Ecosystems

The Department is committed to increasing sustainability of parklands by securing lands that will bridge or link parks to other protected areas. These linkages will buffer the impact of urban residential use and provide meaningful watershed protection. They may also contribute to partnerships with other agencies by meeting regional conservation planning goals.



Herd of elk at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park



McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park

Measurement Rationale

Measurement is essential for the Department to succeed in its mission to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity and protect its most valuable natural resources. Ecosystem measurement is time consuming and difficult, and the challenge for measurement is in the selection of key elements that accurately portray the overall health of each park unit. It requires a mix of the following indicators of ecosystem health.

- Lands contributing to sustainable ecosystems
- Exotic plant and animal species control and management
- Monitoring of flora and fauna
- Restoration of natural processes
- Visitor perception
- Paleontological resource management

■ Exotic Plant and Animal Species Control and Management

Measurement of exotic plant and animal species in California State Parks improved significantly with the creation of the Natural Resources Condition Assessment. In fiscal year 2001-02 the Department collected baseline information from 197 park units representing 94 percent of the natural units in the system. The information collected defines the extent of coverage of the most damaging exotic species of plants and animals found in the units surveyed. The survey introduced measurement of “management units” boundaries based on permanent features unlikely to change. Management units are manageable-sized areas, enabling efficient organization and scheduling of natural resource monitoring and maintenance. Boundaries of management units define logical margins, easily recognizable to experts, that include areas with similar management goals. For example, the management unit boundary may separate a wetland from an upland area, or a beach/dune area from a facilities area. The Department identified 1,064 management units in the 197 parks surveyed.

■ Monitoring of Flora and Fauna

Natural resource monitoring reveals the effects of natural and human processes on natural resources. Information from monitoring identifies potential actions that could mitigate ecosystem degradation. Over the past several years, the Department has developed a Natural Resources Maintenance Program to survey parklands for defined elements of environmental health. Long-term measurement of trends enables State Parks to manage its ecosystems for ongoing health, significance and sustainability, and to eventually restore them to their pre-settlement indigenous state.

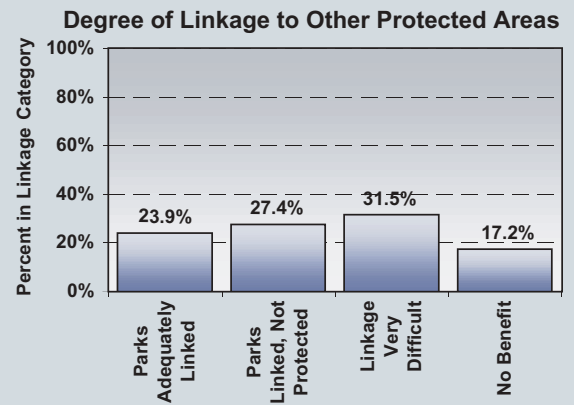


Road removal and peak restoration at Angel Island State Park

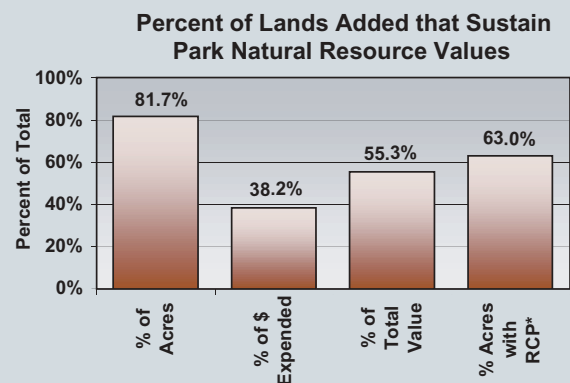


Western tiger swallowtail butterfly at Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area

Data



The chart above depicts the degree that parklands can be or are adequately linked to other protected areas. The chart below illustrates the Department's efforts to secure lands that sustain park natural resource values and their degree of sustainability.



*RCP= Regional Conservation Plans



Coal Canyon acquisition in Chino Hills State Park

Restoration of Natural Processes

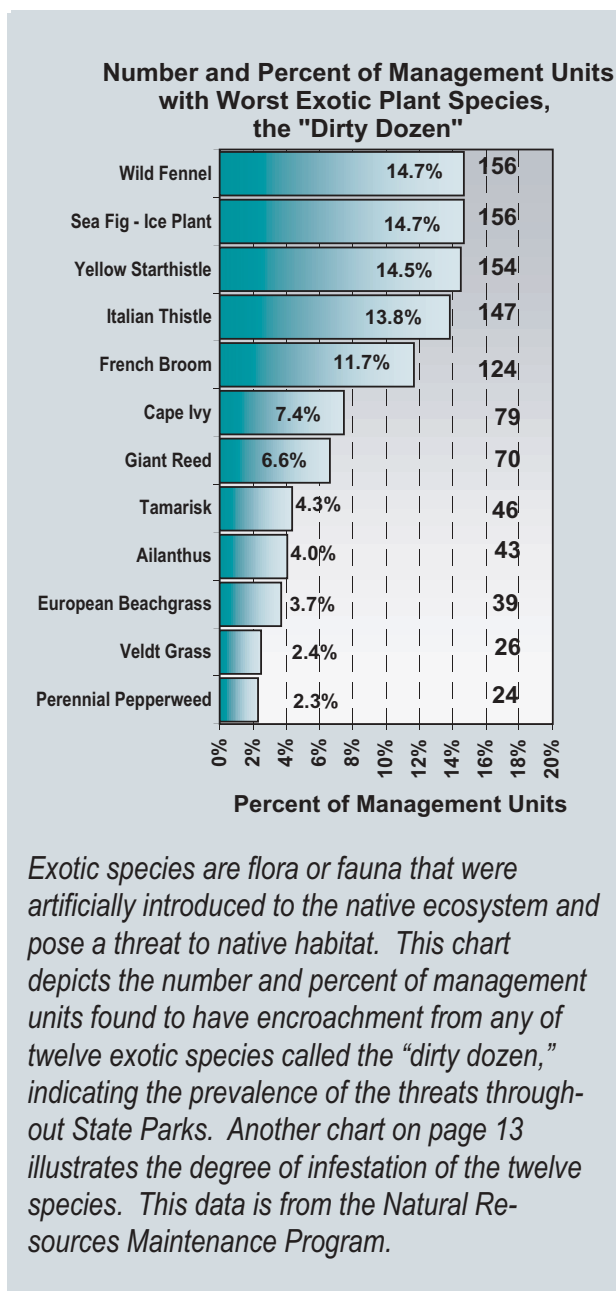
Central to State Parks' strategy of natural resource restoration is the restoration of natural processes and the removal of artificial processes. Over the past 50 years, wildfire has been effectively excluded from state parklands. However, current land management science has determined that fire is a necessary element in the natural ecological process. Cyclical fire provides for greater biodiversity by allowing the natural succession of vegetation. It also reduces the build-up of large fuel sources, thereby preventing catastrophic fire events. There are also inherent fluctuations in the process of prescribed burning due to numerous variables that affect fire application such as weather, staffing schedules, availability of cooperating agencies, and length of burn season.

Visitor Perception

Building a strong advocacy and constituency is paramount to success in California State Parks. The Department conducts an ongoing visitor survey, containing a seven-year baseline of information on visitor satisfaction with the preservation and protection of natural and cultural resources. Public perception and input helps managers understand how to limit potential damage from human contact as well as determine the degree of advocacy for the department's responses to ecosystem management issues.

Paleontological Resource Management

The Department has a number of active paleontological beds, primarily in the desert regions of southern California, where new specimens are still being discovered. Discovery sites are surveyed, monitored, and recorded. Critical specimens are processed and studied in a museum environment, and eventually used to interpret millions of years of changing climate, vegetation, and animal life.



Coal Canyon wildlife linkage



Native grassland restoration at Mt. Tamalpais State Park

Measures

■ Lands Contributing to Sustainable Ecosystems

The Department commits to securing lands to sustain currently protected natural resource values. Sustainable additions fall primarily into the following categories:

- 1) Provide, create or protect linkages to existing protected areas,
- 2) Contribute to complete watershed protection, or
- 3) Provide meaningful buffers from urban impacts.

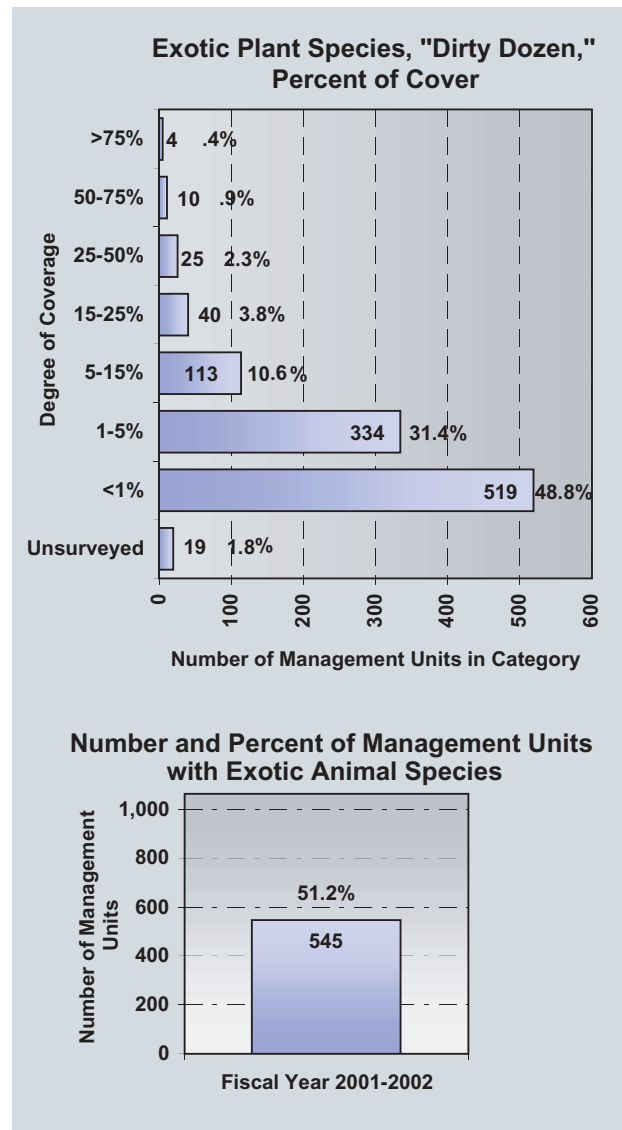
The acquisitions may also contribute to regional conservation planning goals.

By linking natural resource areas of California State Parks to other protected areas, the department can avoid the impact of fragmentation which include major species losses and habitat degradation.

This measure portrays the percentage of land additions meeting park natural resource values. While the largest percentage of total land added supports these values, the most important lands, which are near urban areas, are very costly, making these additions more difficult but with high yield.

■ Exotic Plant and Animal Species Control and Management

Achievement of the control of exotic or invasive species takes place through a variety of eradication processes that reduce or inhibit spread of cover. The Department defined a list of the twelve worst species of exotic plants, referring to them as “The Dirty Dozen.” Choice of these species was made using scientifically-based criteria; The ability to spread rapidly into undisturbed areas; their impact on abiotic (nonbiological) ecosystem processes; biotic community composition; vegetation structure;



Exotic vegetation removal at MacKerricher State Park



Stream macroinvertebrate monitoring at Wilder Ranch State Park

genetic integrity; or their vicinity to rare, threatened, or endangered plants, animals, or sensitive natural communities.

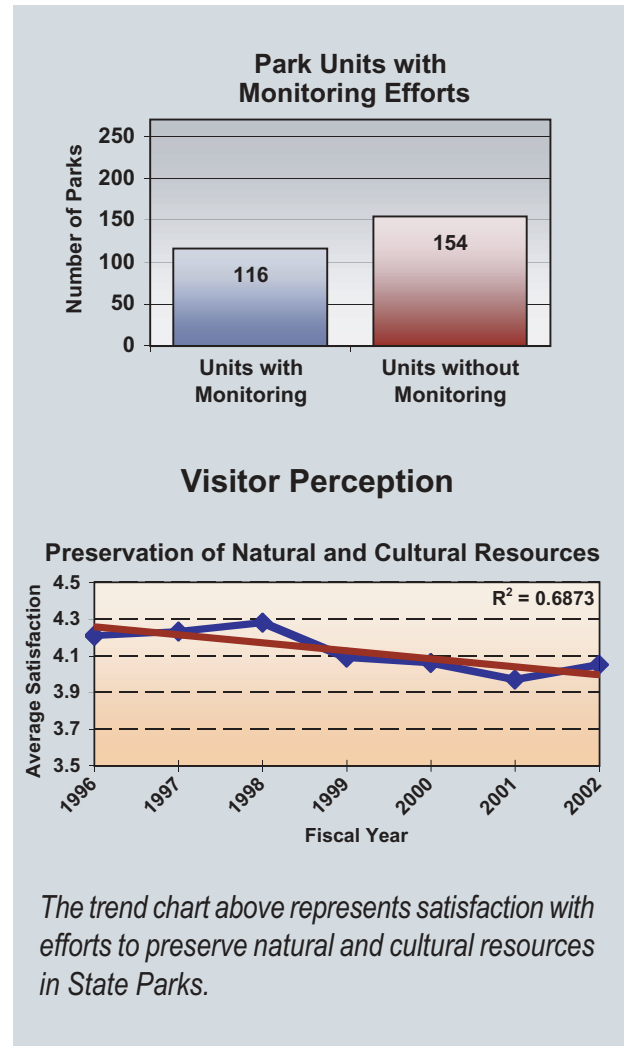
Similarly, nine exotic animals are identified as producing significant impacts on ecosystems.

■ Monitoring of Flora and Fauna

The Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment Program (IMAP) provides goals, guidance, and standards for evaluation of vegetation, wildlife, and other natural systems within state parks. Scientific data collection methods produce information such as streamwater quality, species distribution of flora and fauna, and numbers of offspring of endangered animals. Monitoring data helps to assess what resources are present and the distribution and quantity of each resource. Trends are tracked so that corrective management actions can be taken when necessary.

■ Restoration of Natural Processes

Prescribed fire and unscheduled wildfires contribute to the health of ecosystems where natural fire cycles have been interrupted. In the five-year period from 1996 to 2001, 88 management units were burned through scheduled prescribed fire, and 79 by unscheduled wildfires. The department is working to understand which remaining management units would benefit most from restoration of the natural fire cycle and anticipates having this data for the next reporting period.



Prescribed fire in Sinkyone Wilderness State Park

■ Visitor Perception

Visitor satisfaction with the degree that natural and cultural resources are preserved and protected is gradually declining, especially from years 1999 through 2002. This corresponds to an increase in park visitation over the same time period.

■ Paleontological Resource Management

During the years 2000 through 2002, 155 of an estimated 102,000 potential discovery site acres were surveyed for new paleontological specimens. The department's policy is to recover fossils only as they become exposed through natural erosion processes.

Data on paleontology in this report applies only to the Colorado Desert District Stout Research Center. Fossils from Red Rock Canyon State Park and others, are housed at UC Berkeley, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and other facilities throughout the state.

The Museum Collections Facility Index (MCFI) measures the degree to which facilities which house artifacts are in compliance with Departmental standards under several categories of risk. The MCFI measures both indoor and outdoor facilities. Scores for the Stout Research Center remained at 81 percent compliance for paleontology collection storage areas, while efforts continue to get the remainder of the collection into the department's automated registration system.

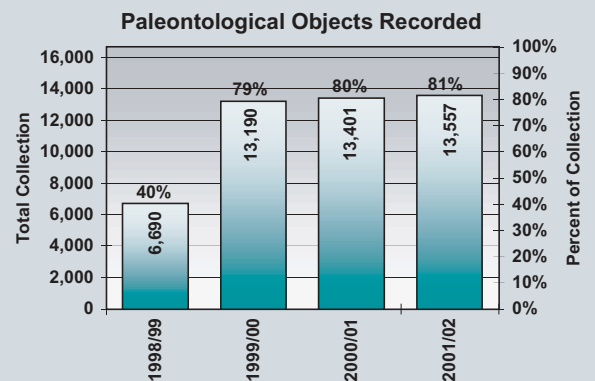
Participation in interpretive programs for paleontology shows a gradual increase, but with a high degree of variation from year to year. Volunteer hours of service for paleontology increased by 15 percent from fiscal year 2000-01 to 2001-02. Volunteers provide a variety of research and interpretation roles for paleontology.



Fossil beds at Red Rock Canyon State Park

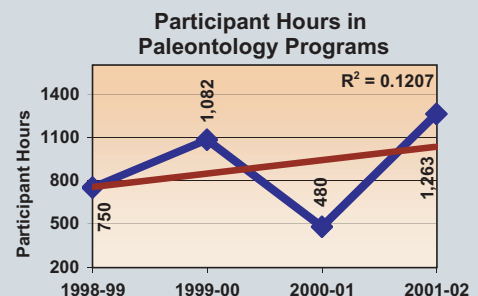


Mammoth tusk found in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park



The chart above shows the cumulative totals of paleontological objects recorded. Of the current known total of over 16,000 specimen, 81% have been recorded into the automated registration system.

Below, visitor participation in paleontology programs varies a great deal from year to year, but shows a gradual increase. Volunteer hours increased 15% last year.



Visitor Comments on Natural Resource Protection

From the California State Parks Visitor Survey 2000-2002

"It's a beautiful well preserved site. Finding a balance that allows humans to enjoy the area and still protect the animals and natural vegetation of habitat must be difficult."

Caswell Memorial State Park, Spring 2002

"More money needed to maintain trails, habitat, and native vegetation."

El Capitan State Park, Summer 2001

"We truly appreciate the efforts to revegetate and reforest this area. Keep up the good work. Maybe in 100 years the campers can enjoy a coastal forest and fine camping."

Andrew Molera State Park, Fall 2000

"My favorite spot on earth!"

Point Lobos State Reserve, Spring 2000

"Wonderful facility. Enjoy the walk on the boardwalk and the beach. I'm glad to see efforts being made to preserve the habitat and environment."

Asilomar State Beach, Summer 2000

"It would be good if you could do a controlled burn to get rid of the foxtail and woods and bring back the wild oats."

San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area, Spring 2001

"This is a critical bird habitat. Whatever it takes to lower the salt content, maintain the water level and lower the nutrient content of the runoff from irrigation should be done ASAP. The diversity of bird population is rare."

Salton Sea State Recreation Area, Fall 2000

"Our 12 year old girls really enjoyed seeing salt and rock formations and marine life. Thanks!"

Russian Gulch State Park, Summer 2000"

"Need to buy the land around the lake and stop urban building on lakeshores."

Millerton Lake State Recreation Area, Winter 2000

I enjoy very much how Portola is in a very natural state. Very little interference from people as far as amenities go. I feel very much like I am in the forest vs. other places I have gone."

Portola Redwoods State Park, Spring 2000

"I last visited in 1958 as a teenager and found the preservation now of natural resources very satisfactory."

Castle Crags State Park, Summer 2001

"Thank you for labeling tender vegetation areas."

Mount San Jacinto State Wilderness, Spring 2001

"Wonderful resource. This is what makes Ventura County special. I support leaders who preserve this."

Point Mugu State Park, Summer 2000

"Thank you for protection of native coastal dune vegetation. Please continue the program."

Carpinteria State Beach, Spring 2000

"A reasonable balance between preservation and active utilization seems to me to have been reached."

San Onofre State Beach, Spring 2000

"Impressed by efforts to protect fragile areas."

Armstrong Redwoods State Park, Fall 2001

"Beautiful juxtaposition of meadow, orchard and forest maintained well—not overly maintained. Perfect!"

Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Summer 2001

Cultural Resource Protection

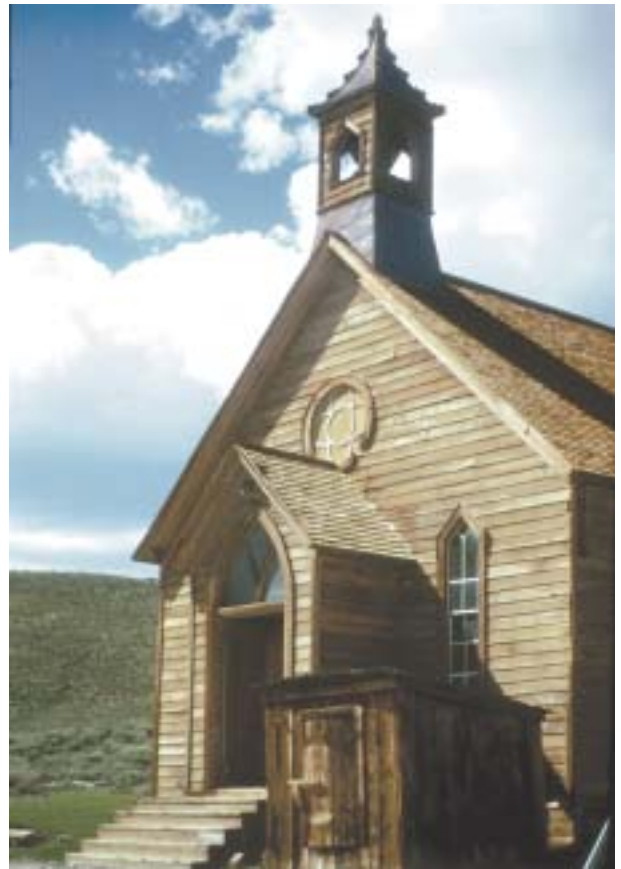
The Department's mission clearly defines the responsibility to preserve and protect the state's most valued cultural resources, both inside and outside state park boundaries. Cultural resources include buildings and structures, historic landscapes, archaeological sites, artifacts, and documents that collectively represent California's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Current Status

In the past few years, the Department's Cultural Resources Division has made great strides in the development of comprehensive measures for the monitoring, cataloging, assessment, and accessibility of its wide variety of cultural resources. The Department is charged with the stewardship of an estimated 10,000 prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, approximately 1 million museum artifacts and 3 million archival documents located in various parks and museum resource centers, about 2 million archaeological artifacts and specimens, over 1 million historic documents, and approximately 250,000 historic photographs. State Parks also has responsibility for approximately 3,000 historic buildings and structures and a yet undetermined number of historic landscapes.



Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park



Church at Bodie State Historic Park

Measurement Rationale

The measures established for this outcome assess the degree to which cultural sites, features, and structures are protected, preserved, and made available to the public. Protection from both natural and human elements involves:

- Cataloging, scanning, and documenting
- Archaeological site assessment, protection, and maintenance
- Condition assessment of historic buildings and structures
- Appropriate housing for artifacts
- Stewardship management
- Cultural resource acquisition
- Visitor perception
- Preservation of historic resources outside of the state park system

■ Cataloging, Scanning, and Documenting

Basic protection began with the inventory and documentation of the collections of artifacts and the preliminary assessment to the archaeological sites, structures and landscapes. The Argus System is a database that records, documents, and archives images of historic photographs, and in many cases images of museum artifacts. Currently, the Department is updating the system to a more current system known as The Museum System (TMS), converting all of the records from the Argus system, as well as adding new records to the collection.

■ Archaeological Site Assessment , Protection, and Maintenance

California State Parks contain some of the most significant Native American and historic archaeological sites representing the diverse people who have lived in the state since ancient times. However, many of these invaluable sites are threatened by various natural forces and human activities.

In order to monitor these threats and develop maintenance and protection measures, an archaeological site assessment program is being instituted with the development of an Archaeological Site Condition Assessment Record (ASCAR). The process documents the condition of archaeological sites, identifies preservation and protection issues, and recommends measures to counter observed threats. It also updates archaeological site information and establishes a Global Positioning System (GPS) datum for permanent reference.



Native American Basket Exhibit at the California State Indian Museum

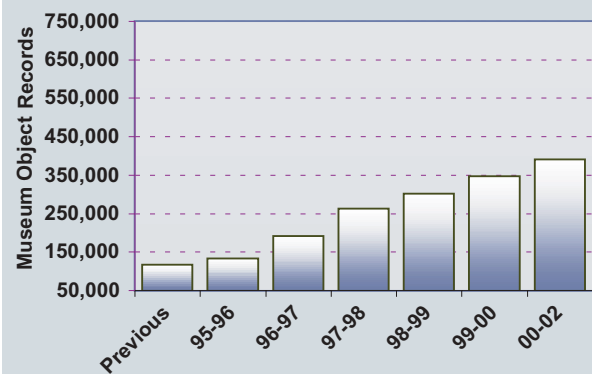


Calcite charm stones from the California Central Valley dating to 3,000 B.C.

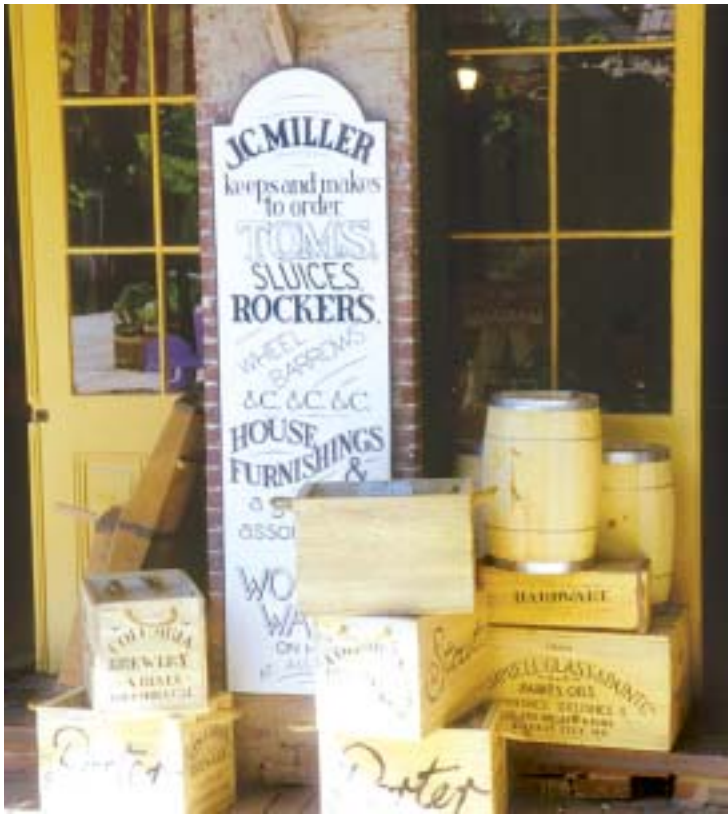
Data

Cataloging, Scanning, and Documenting

Museum Objects Recorded (cumulative)



<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Objects Recorded</u>
Previous Effort	116,200
Actual 1995-96	15,960
Actual 1996-97	58,215
Actual 1997-98	72,058
Actual 1998-99	38,010
Actual 1999-00	45,892
<u>Actual 2000-02</u>	<u>43,496</u>
Total	389,831



Storefront at Columbia State Historic Park

■ Condition Assessment of Historic Buildings and Structures

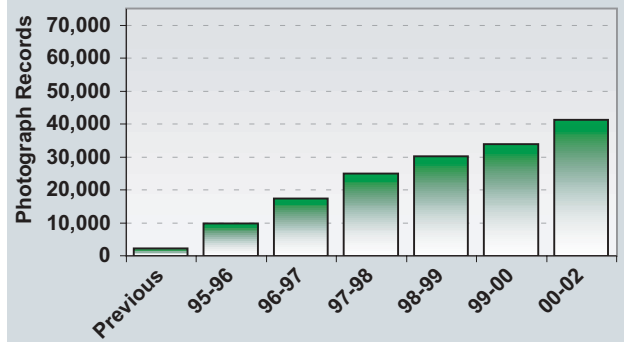
Existing guidelines define a building or structure as “historic” if it is 50 years of age or older. Age, however, is only one of many factors that help to determine a resource’s historic significance in portraying California’s rich cultural heritage. Not only must the Department continue to survey and identify historic buildings and structures within state parks’ infrastructure, it must also evaluate their significance and document their existing condition.

By identifying the important character-defining features of significant historic resources, special criteria for preserving their historic fabric can then be applied. Ultimately, this will ensure that such resources retain their historic integrity while becoming open to the public.

The Department recognizes that a viable survey program forms the basis for all future preservation efforts. Once significant historic resources are identified and evaluated, the next step is to generate historic structure reports and cultural landscape reports to ensure that significant historic resources within state parks are properly preserved and maintained for present and future generations.

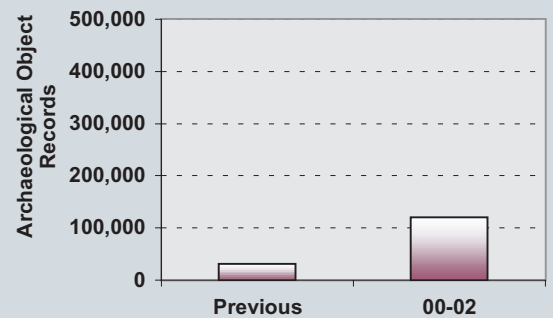
Cataloging, Scanning, and Documenting (cont.)

Photographs Recorded (cumulative)



Fiscal Year	Photographs Recorded
Previous Effort	2,087
Actual 1995-96	7,643
Actual 1996-97	7,526
Actual 1997-98	7,568
Actual 1998-99	5,242
Actual 1999-00	3,729
Actual 2000-02	7,435
Total	41,230

Archaeological Objects Recorded (cumulative)



Fiscal Year	Objects Recorded
Previous Effort	30,000
Actual 2000-02	89,398
Total	119,398



Clogged stone believed to be 6,000 years old found at Crystal Cove State Park

■ Appropriate Housing for Artifacts

The Museum Condition Facility Index (MCFI) is in its fifth year of implementation. This system measures the degree to which facilities that house artifacts are in compliance with Departmental standards under several categories of risk. The MCFI measures both indoor and outdoor facilities.

■ Stewardship Management

With stewardship for many of the state's most invaluable and irreplaceable cultural resources, the Department has the responsibility to address potential threats and preservation needs across the broad spectrum of historical resources within the State Park System. These are prioritized, and projects are developed through the Department's Cultural Stewardship Program.

■ Cultural Resource Acquisition

California has been inhabited by extremely diverse cultures throughout prehistory and history. The Department commits to preserve this rich, diverse cultural heritage and acquire examples of irreplaceable prehistoric, ethnographic, and historic properties that exhibit this diversity for current and future generations. It is important that significant cultural resource properties and cultural landscapes be acquired by State Parks to fill gaps in our understanding of this complex and diverse history.

■ Visitor Perception

The Department has a seven-year baseline of information on the degree of satisfaction with the preservation and protection of natural and cultural resources. Measurement of public perception is important to cultural resource management because it is known

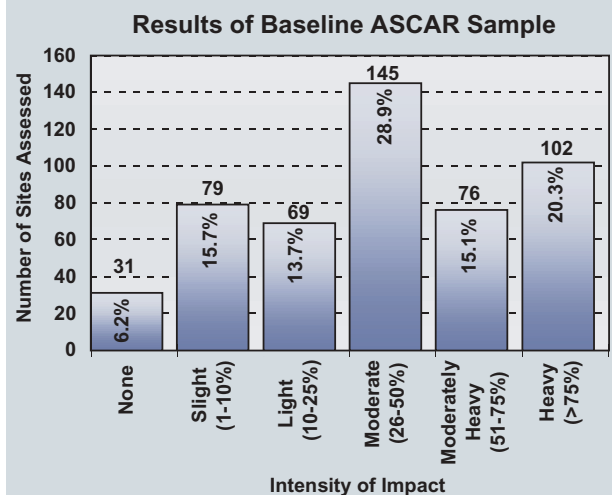


Reconstructed Miwok Village at Indian Grinding Rock (Chaw'se) State Historic Park



Archaeological dig at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

Condition of Archaeological Sites



Results of the last two years of the Archaeological Site Condition Assessment Record (ASCAR) investigations, spanning a sample of 502 sites across California State Parks indicate that 64 percent of known sites have suffered substantial impacts, rated from moderate to heavy, due to natural and human-caused processes, and are in urgent need of intervention.

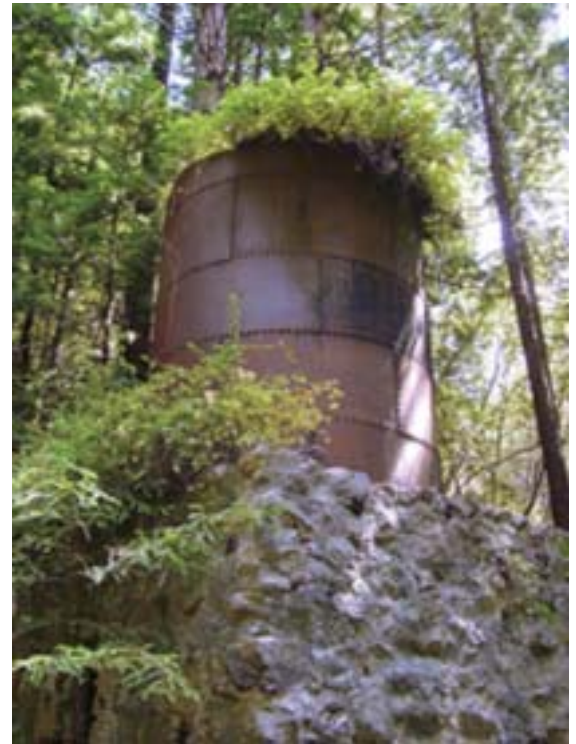
This data documents the need for ongoing, annual assessment and maintenance of all archaeological sites in the State Park System. Without this assessment and needed interventions, site degradation will continue to destroy these invaluable ancient and historic archaeological sites, and intervention will be restricted to ad hoc efforts. Funding for annual ASCAR assessment is needed to apply this instrument to the entire system of known and newly discovered archaeological sites.

that the extent to which visitors understand the importance of preservation has a direct impact on potential damage from human contact.

■ Preservation of Historic Resources Outside of the State Park System

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) in the Department of Parks and Recreation is the principal state office charged with administering and promoting the inventory and preservation of cultural resources outside of the State Park System. OHP achieves its objectives through multiple programs. The focus of measurement in this area centers on registration, project review, architectural review, grants, Certified Local Government (CLG) surveys, and the compilation of a statewide cultural resources inventory.

This office is charged with administration of federal and state historic resource registration programs. It is also charged with project review, architectural review, and award of grants to encourage rehabilitation, preservation planning, and other preservation activities by local governments, nonprofit organizations, and other agencies. Because most of the outcomes of these programs fall outside of the Department’s ultimate control, measurement centers on efficiency of the processes for its responsibilities.



Furnace used for removing lime at Limekiln State Park

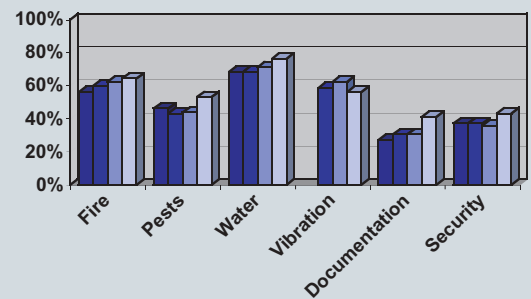
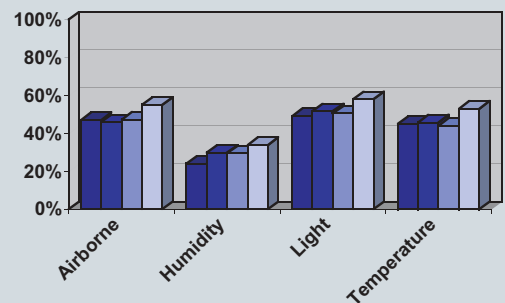


Vikingsholm living room at Emerald Bay State Historic Park

Appropriate Housing for Artifacts

Museum Collections Facility Index (MCFI) Results 1997-2001

■ 1997-1998 ■ 1998-1999 ■ 1999-2000 □ 2000-2001



Measures

Within California State Parks

■ Cataloging, Scanning, and Documenting

Objects and photographs are cataloged, scanned, and documented into the Department's automated registration system. The long-term, continuous progress is occurring in a phased progression over multiple fiscal years. Once properly documented, artifacts can be utilized for public education and research.

■ Archaeological Site Assessment, Protection, and Maintenance

Many of the ancient and historic archaeological sites in California State Parks are threatened by natural processes and human activities. Eight major categories of impacts are listed on the ASCAR, including erosion and other geological processes, park development, fire, trails, and vandalism.

Archaeologists assess and record the degree of disturbance from these various types of impacts that are affecting archaeological sites. The intensity of the impacts is determined by considering the types of damage categories that have affected the entire site. Examples of major impacts that threaten sites with deterioration and irreplaceable loss are looting, rock art defacement, erosion, construction of roads and trails, use trails, and illegal camping and campfires.

A recent ASCAR survey of coastal site erosion indicates that over 60 percent of the archaeological sites in this region are considerably eroded and damaged.



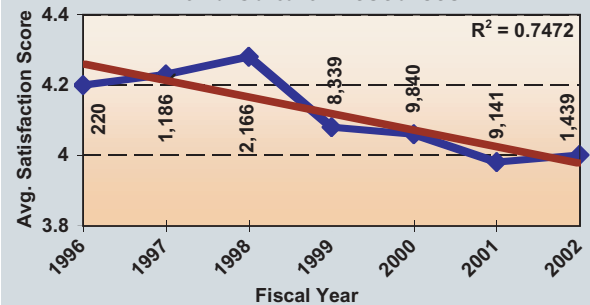
Sunken boat from the 1900s at Emerald Bay State Park



Historic photograph from Empire Mine State Historic Park

Visitor Perception

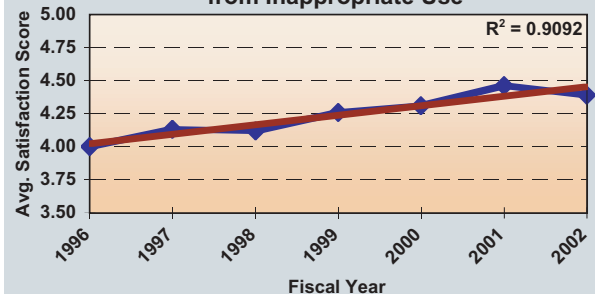
Preservation of Natural and Cultural Resources



The trend chart above represents satisfaction with efforts to preserve natural and cultural resources in state parks. A significant decline from 1999 through 2002 could be related to the increase in state park visitation over the same time period.

In contrast, the trend chart below illustrates rising satisfaction in the level of protection from inappropriate use given historic areas. This could indicate that while the public is concerned for ongoing preservation, the Department's efforts at curbing human interventions are generally supported by the public.

Level of Protection of Historic Areas from Inappropriate Use



Random use trails made by park visitors in sandy soils (e.g., shortcuts to beaches) are a major impact on coastal archaeological sites. Random use trails quickly expose artifacts and create runoff channels that further erode site deposits. To counteract this erosion, some parks, including Año Nuevo State Reserve, Point Lobos State Reserve, and Crystal Cove State Park, are making efforts to eliminate random use trails by installing designated trails with raised boardwalks or decomposed granite framed by railings.

■ Condition Assessment of Historic Buildings and Structures

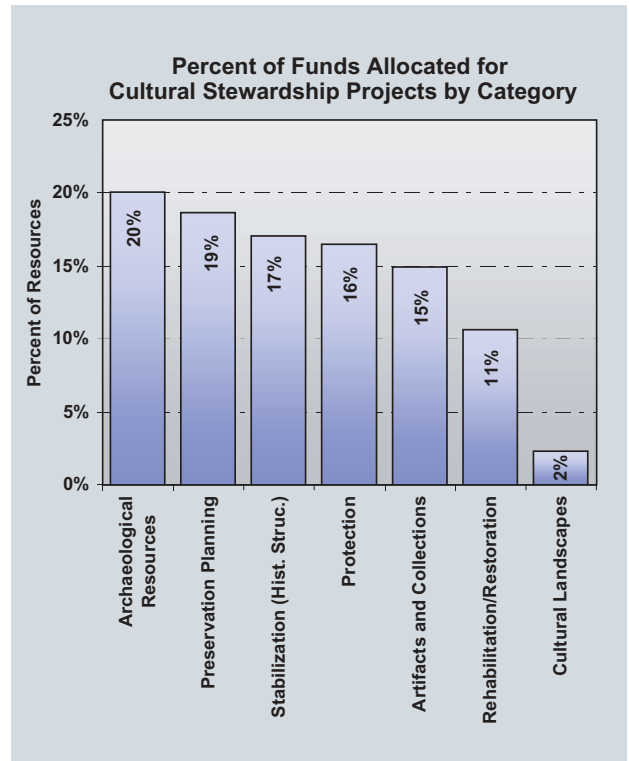
The condition assessment for historic buildings, structures, and landscapes requires special training and research to identify historic fabric, promote the preservation of the unique features that define the character of the building or landscape, and assess potential threats to the continued existence of important cultural resources.

To be successful in its mission to preserve and protect California’s valuable cultural resources, the Department must first develop an inventory of significant historic buildings, structures, landscapes, and districts that characterize California’s rich history and cultural diversity. This inventory will be used to help prioritize various protection and preservation activities so that the Department can focus its limited expert staff on historic resources that are relevant, diverse, and representative of a broad range of historic and cultural themes and contexts.

The Department is currently working on this distinction, while acknowledging that ongoing survey activities will continue to add new resources to the inventory of significant resources. While the Department may choose



Church at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park



The chart above shows a breakdown of the percent of funds allocated for 38 Cultural Stewardship Projects funded in fiscal year 2002-2003 by seven categories of cultural resource activities. The Stewardship Program identifies potential threats and preservation needs across the broad spectrum of historical resources within the State Park System.



Refectory (Dining Room) at Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument

to focus its preservation activities on specific significant resources, it will continue to apply care and maintenance to other historic resources within the framework of facility maintenance programs. Once a process is established, the Department will develop the means for tracking ongoing progress in measurable terms.

■ Appropriate Housing for Artifacts

Artifacts require special handling to preserve and protect the historic fabric. The Department identified a series of “Risk Categories” that can negatively affect the degree of protection offered by the facilities that house artifacts. Each facility conducts an assessment rating the identified “risk factors” and receives a rating of compliance to the MCFI standards. Improvements are then planned and implemented to improve the facility’s rating.

The index uses principles similar to the American Association of Museums’ (AAM) recognized standards for museum collections. Levels of compliance are determined to distinguish collections at high risk from those that are currently housed in a stable environment.

■ Stewardship Management

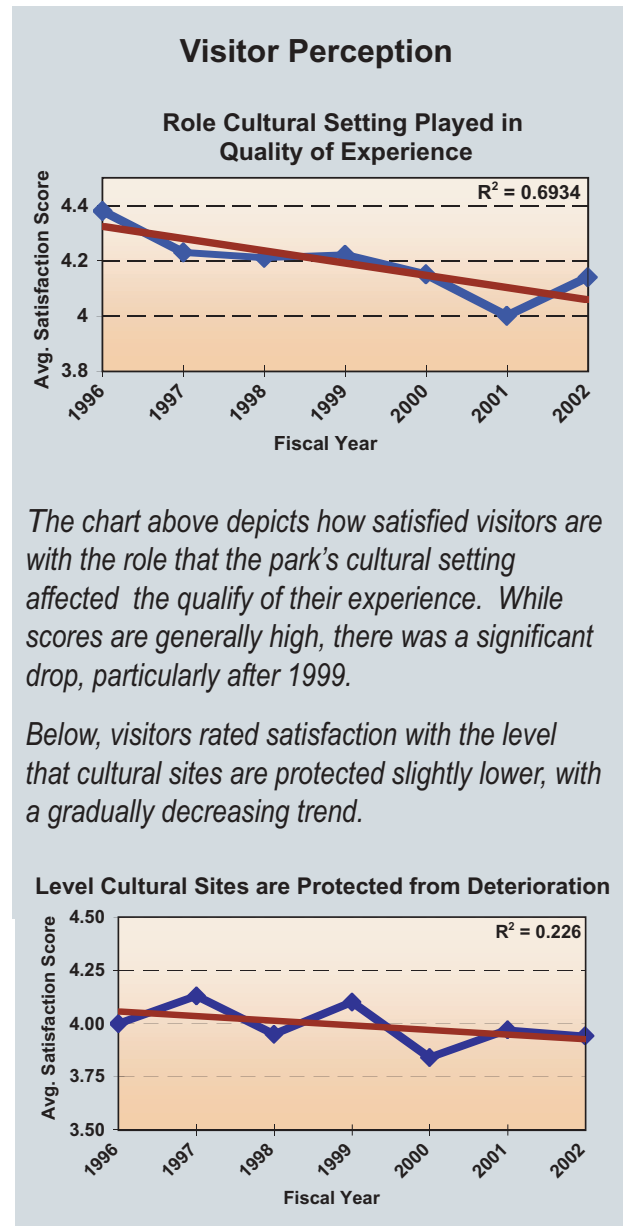
The Cultural Stewardship Program addresses potential threats and preservation needs through funding activities for stabilization of historic structures and archaeological sites, protection of museum collections and archival materials, preparation of site specific preservation plans, and rehabilitation and restoration and development of Historic Structure Reports.

■ Securing Cultural Resources

Significant cultural resource properties and cultural landscapes will help address deficiencies in the State Park System. These additions will contribute to our understanding of prehistoric, ethnographic, and cultural sequences in California; fulfill visitor expectations for cultural resources; enrich visitor experiences; and contribute to the general education of the public about California’s ancient and recent past. Deficiencies include properties that exhibit antiquity and ancestral history of California Indians, representation of ethnic diversity in California, and recent history in California.

■ Visitor Perception

Building a strong advocacy and constituency is paramount to success in California State Parks. The Department conducts ongoing customer satisfaction and importance surveys each season. Each visitor is asked to rate both how satisfied they are and how important each issue is to



Old gas pumps at Bodie State Historic Park

them. The importance and satisfaction are then calculated together to help understand which issues need the most improvement. These surveys assist the Department in directing efforts to preserve and protect cultural resources by redirecting resources to either educate the public about the importance of understanding our heritage, or to better enhance our efforts where deficiencies are identified.

Outside State Parks

Registration Submittals

A necessary first step in preserving historically significant properties is determining which properties meet the criteria. OHP administers one federal and three state “registers” (or lists) of certified historic resources: the National Register of Historic Places (a federal list), the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Historical Landmarks Program, and the California Points of Historical Interest. OHP must review and process nominations of cultural resources to these registers.

Architectural Review

Federal tax codes offer major incentives for the rehabilitation of historically significant buildings and structures in the form of substantial tax credits for rehabilitation work that complies with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. OHP is charged with ensuring that such work meets the standards. Project review submittals may also require consultation for architectural concerns.

Surveys Administered

An effective national preservation program identifies historic resources through comprehensive statewide surveys. Survey data helps in local land use planning decisions and preservation programs. OHP provides technical assistance to local governments and oversees the conducting of surveys funded through grants to CLGs, adding hundreds or thousands of cultural resources to the statewide inventory each year.

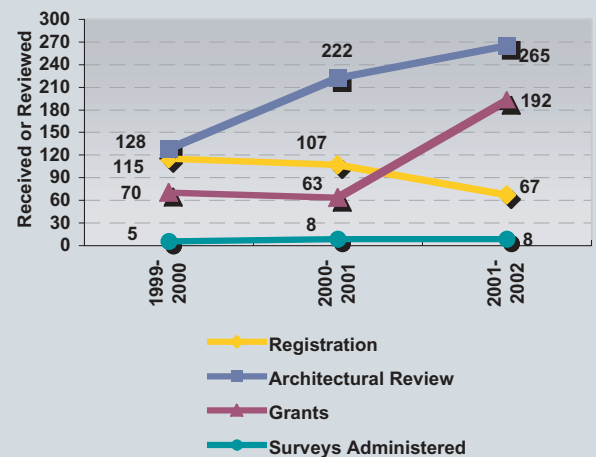
The information generated from survey activities is an important component in local land use planning decisions and preservation programs and can be used to support local, state, and federal register property designations, develop heritage tourism initiatives, identify private property owners eligible for historic preservation tax benefits, and facilitate state and federal environmental reviews.



Benicia Clocktower in the City of Benicia

Preservation of Historic Resources Outside of the State Park System

Number of Registrations, Architectural Reviews, Grants Received and Reviewed, and Surveys Conducted



The chart above represents four areas of measurement: 1) Number of registration applications received; 2) Number of project review consultations for architectural review; 3) Number of grant applications received and administered; and 4) Number of tax incentive submittals and number of surveys funded and administered by OHP.



Johnston House in Half Moon Bay

■ Grants Administered

OHP administers a number of grant programs to encourage rehabilitation, preservation planning, and other preservation activities including the California Heritage Fund (state funded) and a variety of grants awarded from federal funds. OHP tracks two time-consuming aspects of the grants program; receipt and evaluation of applications, and the administration of grants.

■ Project Review Submittals

Projects that are undertaken, funded, assisted, or permitted by federal agencies must take into account potential impacts on historically significant resources. OHP is responsible for reviewing plans and documents related to these projects, assessing potential impacts of projects on historically significant resources, and directing and assisting in the proper consideration and management of those resources.

■ Updates to Statewide Cultural Resource Inventory

A large amount of useful data pertaining to cultural resources in the state is generated every year by various activities. This information is valuable to project planners, potential purchasers of historic buildings, and the general public. The California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) includes OHP and twelve regional information centers (ICs) located throughout the state.

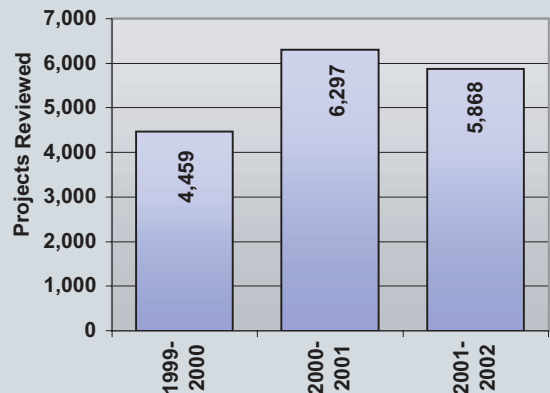
CHRIS maintains a large database on cultural resources in California. The CHRIS data derived from various sources and maintained by both OHP and the ICs is made available via the ICs. OHP monitors data on the total numbers of cultural resources and reevaluations of historical significance added to the statewide inventory.



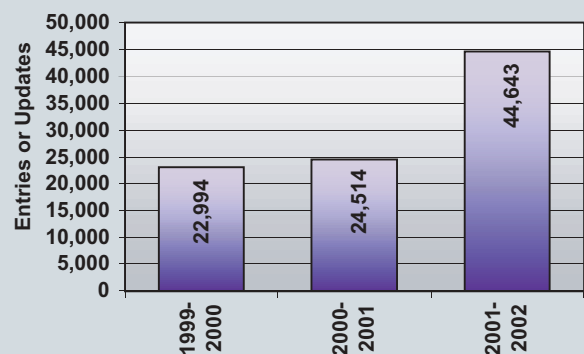
Japanese schoolhouse in Castroville

Preservation of Historic Resources Outside of the State Park System (cont.)

Number of Federal Projects Reviewed for Effects on Historic Resources



Number of Entries or Updates to Statewide Information Systems



The Kaiser Shipyards on San Francisco Bay in Richmond

Visitor Comments on Cultural Resource Protection

From the California State Parks Visitor Survey 2000-2002

"The value of these resources is incalculable and every and all efforts should be made to preserve them for future generations!"

Monterey State Historic Park, Winter 2000

"Sharing natural and historic resources with our children and future generations is a MUST! Our future must have "roots".

Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park, Spring 2000

"Historically significant buildings are being allowed to disintegrate. Should be restored."

Angel Island State Park, Spring 2000

"The state should help with this restoration of this important historical time for future generations."

Point Sur State Historic Park, Summer 2002

"Preserve and tell the story of these people who once called this area their own."

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, Spring 2001

"Extremely impressed with park's collection of California paintings. A real historic resource/treasure."

Shasta State Historic Park, Winter 2002

"Amazing historical resource. Must be preserved. We were astounded!"

Bodie State Historic Park, Summer 2001

"Deterioration of building (wood and adobe) from weather and insects is a great concern. Some parts are in great need of (historically accurate) restoration."

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park, Summer 2002

"Things have been very well cared for. Very impressed."

La Purisima Mission State Historic Park, Spring 2000

"Tell the story of this place. Preserve the buildings and building sites."

Picacho State Recreation Area, Fall 2001

"I think that the volunteers are trying hard to preserve Point Sur, but they don't have the funds. This is our heritage and the government needs to supply more money to this division."

Point Sur State Historic Park, Summer 2002

"I liked the diversity of the museum collection."

Donner Memorial State Park, Summer 2001

"My favorite of all the state historic parks I have been to. I love the reverence shown the Miwok (all) Indians here and the respect for the land, animals and (of course) first Peoples."

Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park, Spring 2001

"Continue to keep things as they are for future generations to show. Don't change a thing. Please keep the museum running at any cost."

Antelope Valley Indian Museum, Summer 2000

"The attempt to maintain historical accuracy is to be commended. One can learn and have fun at the same time."

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, Winter 2003

Facilities

California State Parks is responsible for the care and maintenance of the many facilities under its stewardship. The condition and upkeep of the infrastructure leave a lasting impression on visitors to parks and protect the State's assets for future generations to enjoy.

Current Status

■ Visitor Perception

The Department now has seven consecutive years of validated data on the visitors' perceptions of our facilities. Ongoing analysis at the Department, district, and unit levels helps policy makers and managers improve facilities to better serve the public. Ongoing improvements made at local levels eventually affect the larger departmental scores.

■ Repair and Maintenance of the Infrastructure

The Department defines maintenance as the work required to ensure the effective and efficient utilization of facilities. Maintenance includes all work required to preserve a facility in a condition that allows it to be used for its intended purpose for the optimum length of time. Effective maintenance, including housekeeping, results in the best use of resources and the avoidance of lost service and high repair or replacement costs.

The Department provides maintenance services where any type of physical improvement can be assigned at any location within a state park unit or area. The Department defines its facilities in the following categories:



California Conservation Corpsmembers laying historic brick at Stanford Mansion State Historic Park



Nature trail in the North Grove of Calaveras Big Trees State Park

Measurement Rationale

The measures established for this outcome assess the degree to which the Department provides and maintains its infrastructure. The components for successful measurement include:

- Visitor perception
- Repair and maintenance of the infrastructure
- Accessibility of facilities

Buildings, Grounds, Roads/Parking, Miscellaneous Structures, Systems, and Trails. These include buildings, fences, walks, trails, trellises, water systems, sewer systems, dams, retaining walls, campgrounds, day-use areas, and more.

■ **Accessibility**

Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) requires places of public accommodation, commercial facilities, and certain private entities to be accessible to, and usable by, persons with disabilities.

Over the last several years, the Department surveyed all units for compliance with ADA and developed a database to monitor incremental progress toward compliance. Current efforts are directed toward the prioritization and direction of special funding to accomplish measurable outcomes in several identified areas of accessibility.

Additionally, the Department monitors visitor satisfaction with the perceived accessibility of facilities and programs.

Measures

■ **Visitor Perception**

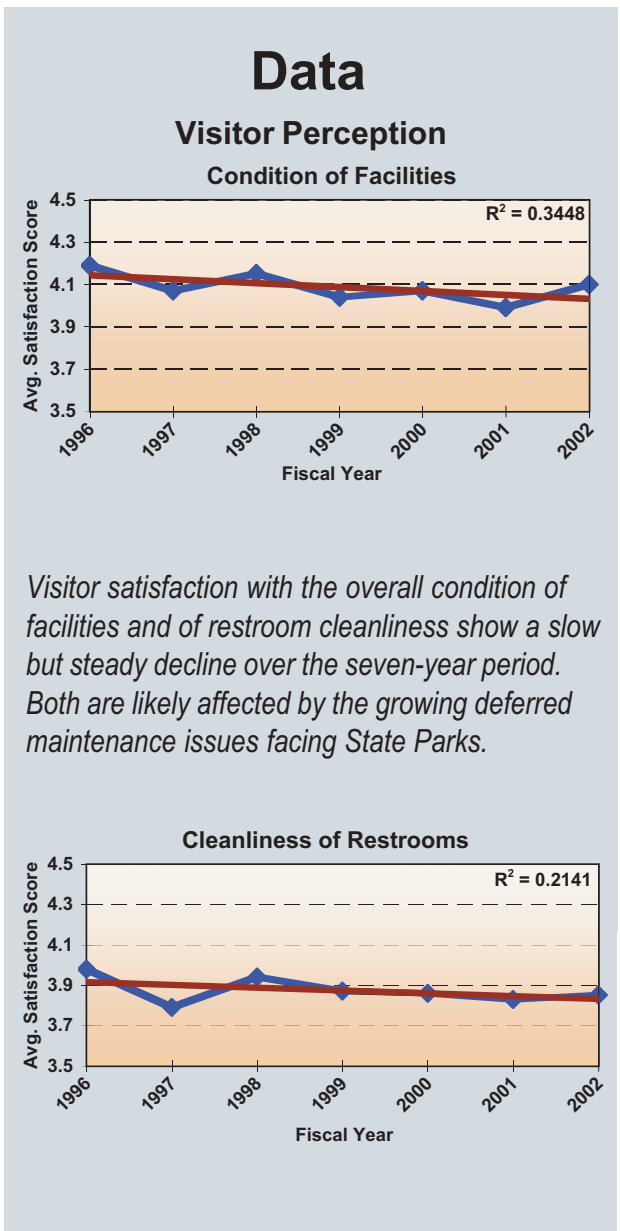
At the statewide level, the Department examines the visitors' perception of the overall condition of facilities. While the general public may not be aware of the underlying workmanship and structural integrity of the facilities, perception of quality is very important to the overall recreational experience.



Dirt removal at Will Rogers State Historic Park



"SS Relief," a floating restroom at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area



Independent studies from both public and private industry show that perception of restroom cleanliness is indicative of the overall impression of the entire facility. Improving negative perceptions can be difficult during peak visitation and where remote locations prohibit the placement of modern facilities. While restroom renovations or increased staffing may be the best solution, increasing regular maintenance or initializing the innovative improvement processes proves to be of value, especially during tight budgetary times.

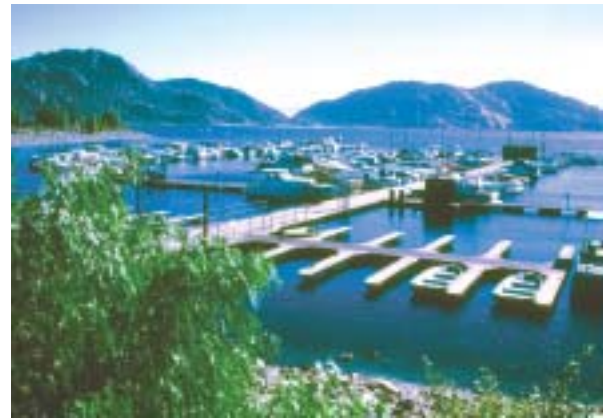
■ Repair and Maintenance of the Infrastructure

A statewide web-based preventative maintenance application called “MAXIMO” is now being actively used to identify the department’s ongoing maintenance needs. MAXIMO enables the Department to budget for, schedule, and track maintenance tasks effectively and efficiently. The application identifies preventative maintenance activities, helps ensure more consistent maintenance throughout the state, and manages work orders and the impact of these maintenance activities. By actively managing assets, the Department expects to save substantial costs through reduction in the growth of the deferred maintenance backlog and through administrative efficiencies.

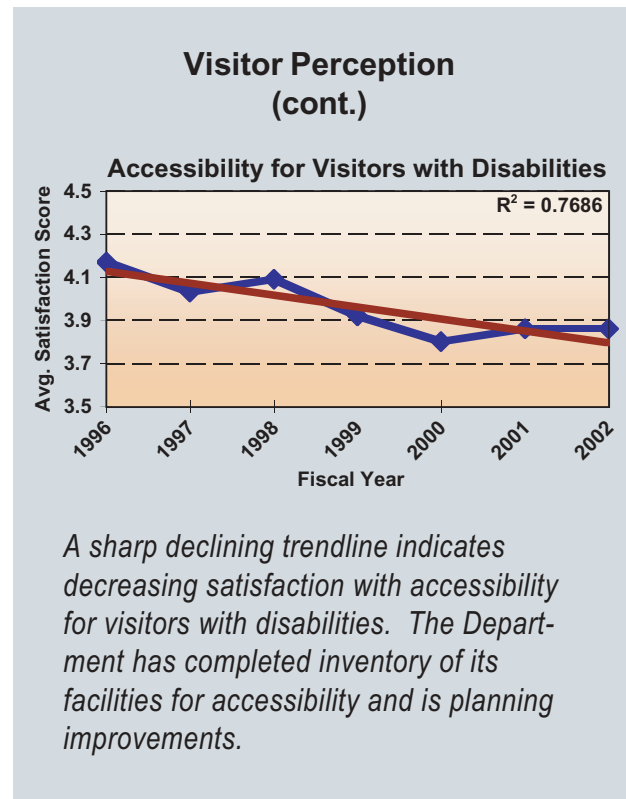
An annual condition assessment that will measure the impact of the achievement of, or lack of, maintenance to a facility is currently being implemented. This assessment ranks the facility based on facility type, intended usage, and present condition. This helps prioritize work orders to ensure efficient and effective utilization of funds and resources. The evaluation gives the Department the ability to identify the most effective maintenance to avoid costly deferred maintenance or replacement.

■ Accessibility of Facilities

The Department completed an inventory of its facilities for compliance with the ADA and is now prioritizing projects to deliver the most compliance. Visitor surveys over the past seven years show a declining satisfaction with accessibility. It is anticipated that as projects are completed, satisfaction should rise over time.



Marina at Lake Perris State Recreation Area



Park maintenance staff and mower at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

Visitor Comments on Facilities

From the California State Parks Visitor Survey 2000-2002

"It's obvious the staff here really cares about the park and goes out of their way to be helpful."

China Camp State Park, Summer 2002

"Thank you for buying recycled products: bench and toilet paper. Would be nice to have explanations on benches and more recycling bins. Great/efficient restroom setup. Need soap."

Año Nuevo State Reserve, Summer 2001

"Overall the park facilities have greatly improved in appearance and cleanliness."

Mount Diablo State Park, Summer 2001

"I have come here to camp at least twice a year for 3-4 years. Bathrooms at both museum and campground always immaculate despite heavy 'kids' use."

Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park, Spring 2001

"One of the best group camps around."

Caswell Memorial State Park, Fall 2002

"Very neat and clean. Disabled can walk and enjoy. Park areas clean and no dust. Appreciate how sites are level and marked, easy to get to."

San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area, Spring 2001

"Deterioration of building (wood and adobe) from weather and insects is a great concern. Some parts are in great need of (historically accurate) restoration."

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park, Summer 2002

"I think they are well kept. Everyone visiting California should see this park and the ones that live here are so lucky."

Fremont Peak State Park, Summer 2000

"We loved the disks set in the sidewalk that guided us on our walk. RE: restrooms: Yes, thank you, in progress."

Monterey State Historic Park, Spring 2002

"Appreciate very much supply of doggies bags!! And trash cans."

Monterey State Beach, Summer 2000

"The new restroom is a great improvement!"

Marina State Beach, Spring 2001

"One or two more restrooms/showers will be most helpful. The shower hot water close to our campsite was broken. No repairs during our stay. Had to go far to get hot water."

Manresa State Beach, Summer 2001

"For porta-potties, these have to rate very high. No odor other than the freshener chemicals. Toilet paper is always available."

Moss Landing State Beach, Spring 2000

"Each of the sites had something unique or nice about it. There was no garbage or trash anywhere, very nice!"

Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, Winter 2001

"Trail improvement (Sea Lion Point Trail) very well done. My mom is 91, she could take the trail now that it's smoother. Also appreciate benches for elderly!!"

Point Lobos State Reserve, Winter 2000

"We were extremely impressed with the condition of all facilities — hard to achieve with crowds. Especially impressed with condition of trails and markers."

Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Summer 2001

"Well designed sites, great systems to bear-proof trash cans."

Castle Crags State Park, Fall 2001

"Too few restrooms, especially for group campsite, two showers and restrooms for 80 people and they have to share with park."

Refugio State Beach, Summer 2001