

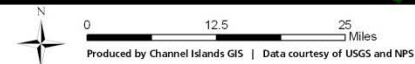


Rambunctious Islands;
*partnerships and recovery on
the Channel Islands*

Kate Faulkner
Chief, Natural Resources



The California Channel Islands

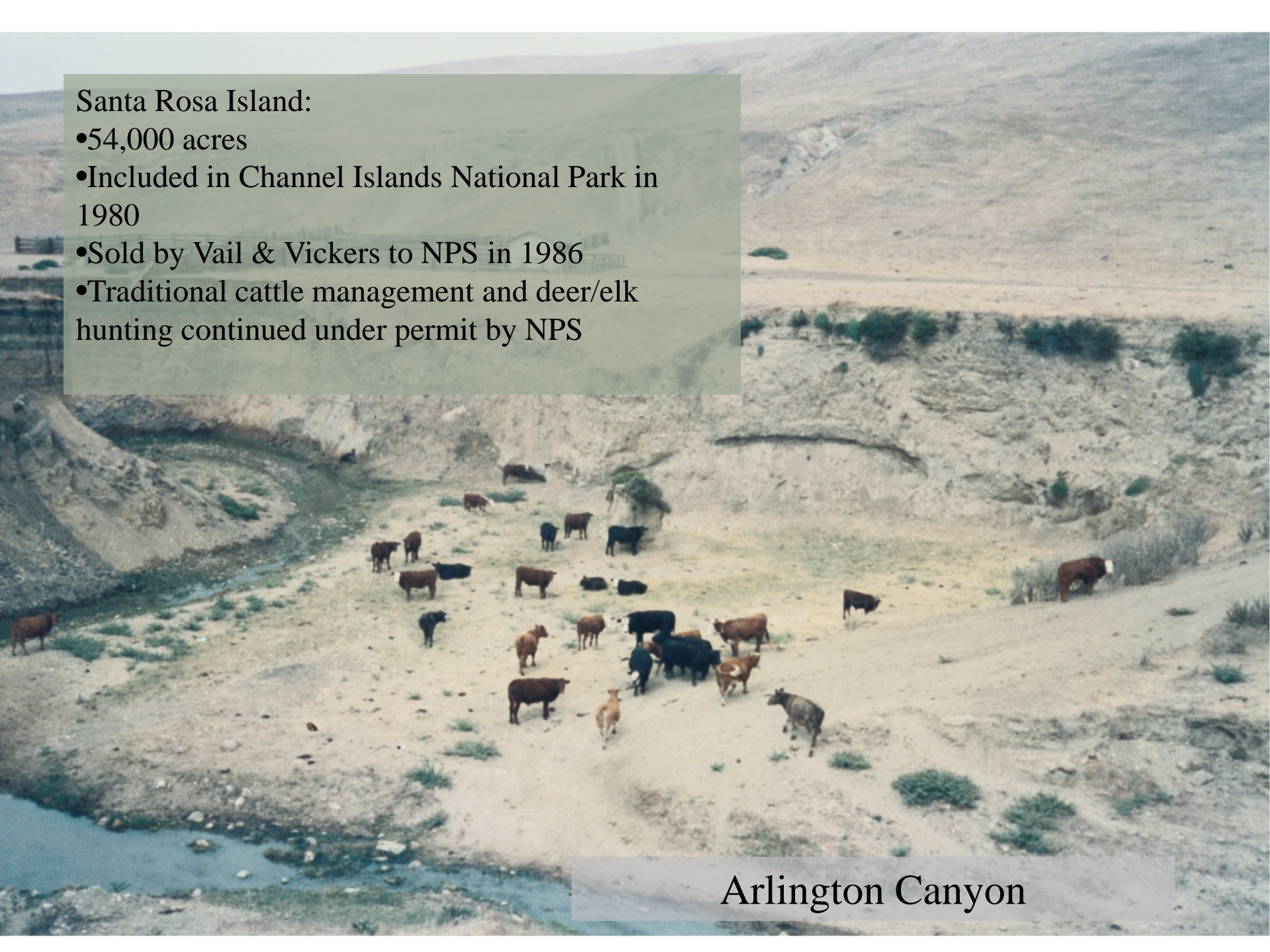


Non-native animals were introduced to all of the Channel Islands in the 1800s



Santa Rosa Island



An aerial photograph of Arlington Canyon, showing a herd of cattle of various colors (brown, black, and tan) grazing in the sandy, sparsely vegetated valley floor. A small stream flows through the lower left portion of the canyon. The surrounding hills are arid and rocky.

Santa Rosa Island:

- 54,000 acres
- Included in Channel Islands National Park in 1980
- Sold by Vail & Vickers to NPS in 1986
- Traditional cattle management and deer/elk hunting continued under permit by NPS

Arlington Canyon

1995

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK
1901 SPINNAKER DRIVE
VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93001

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (hereafter Board), finds:

1. The National Park Service, Channel Islands National Park (hereafter discharger) has discharged bacteria and sediment into waters of the State which is a violation of prohibitions contained in the Regional Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basin (hereafter Basin Plan) and creates, or threatens to create, conditions of pollution or nuisance.
2. The discharger owns Santa Rosa Island and has jurisdiction over rangeland and road activities on Santa Rosa Island, Santa Barbara County. Santa Rosa Island is listed in the Regional Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basin

Warm freshwater habitat
Biological habitats of special significance
Rare, threatened, or endangered species
Commercial and sport fishing
Estuarine habitat
Freshwater replenishment

5. The discharger is responsible for activities on Santa Rosa Island including rangeland and road management. The discharger permits the Vail and Vickers Santa Rosa Island Cattle Ranch, Santa Barbara County to operate on the island under a Special Use Permit (most recently issued in 1993). The discharger develops a Special Use Permit that contains the rangeland management plan which governs cattle operations, location of roads, and other

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TENTATIVE RULING

Case Number: CV 97-4098 WJR (RNBX) Docket Number: 7
Title: Alexander Lennox Vail, et al. v. Denny Galvin, et
al.
Date: August 11, 1997
Nature of Motion: Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction

HON. WILLIAM J. REA, JUDGE

Marva Dillard, Deputy Clerk.

...and correspondingly different prices that the government would pay for the Island under the different options. Ultimately, as the deeds reflect, Vail and Vickers chose the alternative that provided them with the most money, but that did not include a reservation of rights to continue their operations. Specifically, instead of receiving \$26 million and a 25-year reservation for their commercial operations, plaintiffs chose to receive --and did receive-- \$29.5 million for the Island and a five-year SUP revocable at the discretion of the Park Superintendent.

These negotiations are important, because documents and correspondence between the parties reveals that the amount of the sale price was to depend on whether or not Vail and Vickers wanted to reserve a right to continue their hunting and ranching operations for a full twenty-five years. See Memorandum from Acting Regional Director, Western Region of NPS to Associate Director, Planning and Development, NPS (Jan. 30, 1986), Defendants' Exhibit 15 at p. 589 (stating that, "Should they wish to reserve or lease the Island for such use, the Park Service and the owners would agree to a new offer that would be reduced in amount by the fair market value of the estate reserved or leased."). As was mentioned, plaintiffs chose to receive the highest possible sale price in return for receiving the least assurance of permission to continue their hunting and ranching operations. Accordingly, given the fact that plaintiffs received additional money --\$3.5 million, to be exact-- in return for giving up a more certain and more protective right to ranch and hunt, the Court feels that plaintiffs do not have a high likelihood of establishing that an agreement was reached whereby plaintiffs would receive the highest sale price --\$29.5 million-- and a guaranty to be able to continue their operations for twenty-five years --an agreement which would have reduced the sale price.

The Court also finds plaintiffs' contention of a guarantee hard to believe in view of the fact that plaintiffs themselves and their supporters seem to have been under the impression that a guaranteed twenty-five years continuance did not exist. See Memo from Arne M. Sorenson, Latham & Watkins, to Russel and Alexander Vail, at p. 5 (Mar. 25, 1987), Defendants' Exhibit 25 at p. 892 (memo discussing a possible lease that would have been terminable after the first ten years with either six or eighteen months notice). Indeed, a letter from then-Congressman Lagomarsino stated that, "The former owners of the property, the Vail & Vickers families . . . are seeking to continue operation of the cattle ranch on approximately 51,000 acres for a five to ten year period."

Judicial Decision

Settlement Agreement
between all parties

1998 – All cattle removed from Santa Rosa



Arlington Canyon

1995

2012



Point Bar

Stream Channel



Old Ranch Pasture

1995



2015



Lobos Canyon

1995

2015







The northern islands of Channel Islands National Park (left to right: San Miguel, Santa Rosa and mainland California (top: City of Santa Barbara, right: Cities of Ventura and Oxnard) Stripes over the water come from the satellite sensor sweep. (Data U.S. Geological Survey)

Climate Change Trends, Vegetation, and Ecosystem Carbon in Channel Islands National Park

Patrick Gonzalez, Ph.D.

Climate Change Response Program
Natural Resource Stewardship and Science
National Park Service
1201 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20005-5905 USA

June 8, 2015

Ecosystem Carbon

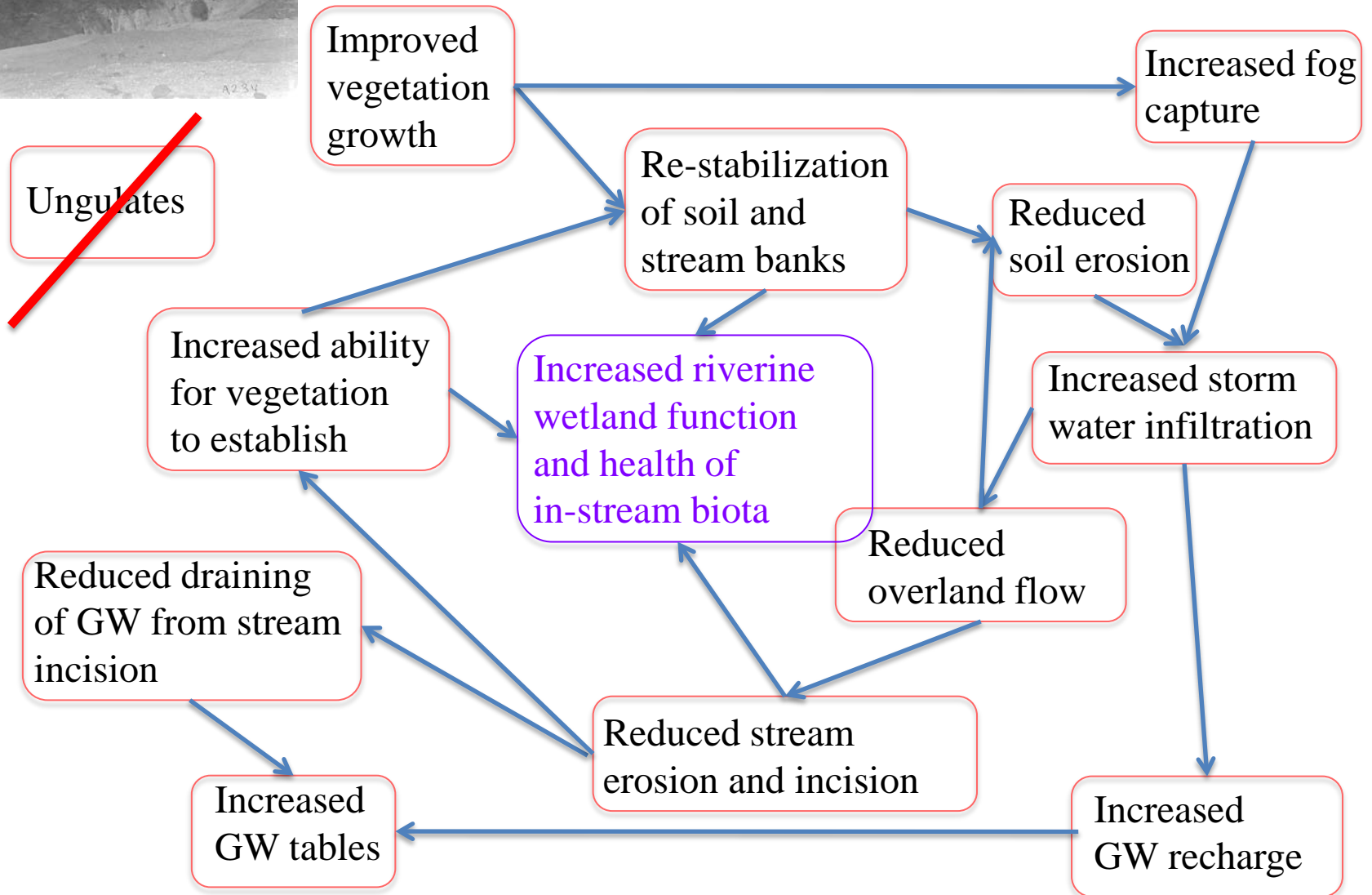
Growing vegetation naturally removes carbon from the atmosphere, reducing the magnitude of climate change. Conversely, deforestation, wildfire, and other agents of tree mortality emit carbon to the atmosphere, exacerbating climate change. Determining the balance between ecosystem carbon emissions to the atmosphere and removals from the atmosphere is essential for tracking the role of ecosystems in climate change (IPCC 2013). Analyses of Landsat remote sensing and field measurements of biomass across the state of California have produced estimates of the carbon in aboveground vegetation for the grasslands, woodlands, forests, and other non-agricultural and non-urban areas of the state at 30 m spatial resolution (Gonzalez et al. 2015). Monte Carlo analyses of error in tree measurements, remote sensing, and the carbon fraction of biomass quantified the uncertainty of carbon stock change estimates.

In 2010, aboveground vegetation in Channel Islands NP contained $130\,000 \pm 91\,000$ tons of carbon (Table 7, Figure 7) (Gonzalez et al. 2015). This stock is equivalent to the greenhouse gases emitted in one year by $24\,000 \pm 17\,000$ Americans.

From 2001 to 2010, aboveground vegetation carbon increased on one-third of the land area of Santa Rosa Island and one-tenth of the land area of Santa Cruz Island, primary at its eastern end, exceeding the surface areas of losses (Figure 8). The carbon increases result from increased vegetation cover, coinciding with ecosystem restoration in those areas during that time period. Although the total surface area in the national park experiencing carbon increases (green areas in Figure 8) greatly exceeded the surface area experiencing carbon losses (small brown patches in Figure 8), the increases generally involved an increase of grassland cover with only a modest increase in carbon density (carbon per hectare), while the decreases often involved losses of shrub vegetation in chaparral with carbon densities 10-20 times greater than grassland. So, small areas of chaparral loss nullified the grassland gains. The mean change in aboveground carbon stock of the park from 2001 to 2010 showed a slight decrease, but, since the 95% confidence interval makes a slight increase numerically possible, the decrease was not statistically significant (Table 7).

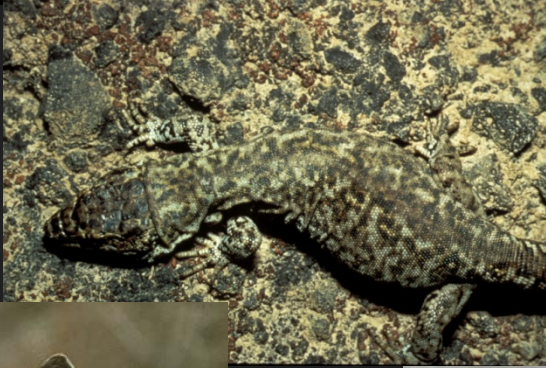


Santa Rosa Island Conceptual Model – ...now that ungulates are gone









December 4, 2015

Russell Galipeau
Superintendent
Channel Islands National Park
1901 Spinnaker Dr.
Ventura, California 93001
Email: Russell_Galipeau@nps.gov

Sent via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail

Dear Mr. Galipeau:

COMPLIANCE WITH CLEANUP OR ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 95-064 FOR RANGELAND AND ROAD MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON SANTA ROSA ISLAND, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

On August 18, 1995, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) Executive Officer signed Cleanup or Abatement Order No. 95-064 (Order), issued to the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Channel Islands National Park, Santa Rosa Island, for impacts to water quality from rangeland and road management activities.

The Order states, "The National Park Service, Channel Islands National Park (hereafter discharger) has discharged bacteria and sediment into waters of the State which is a violation of prohibitions contained in the Regional Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basin (hereafter Basin Plan) and creates, or threatens to create, conditions of pollution or nuisance."

The Order required the discharger to "abate rangeland and road management practices which degrade riparian habitat, degrade water quality, and induce sediment transport into surface waters of Santa Rosa Island."

In compliance with the Order, the National Park Service began monitoring water quality in 1995. The National Park Service also implemented road maintenance practices consistent with the Order in 1997. Additionally in 1997, a settlement agreement provided for removing cattle on Santa Rosa Island by the end of 1998 and for phasing out deer and elk and removing them altogether by the end of 2011. The National Park Service removed the cattle, deer, and elk as scheduled.

In 2003, the National Park Service submitted a water quality report confirming abatement of rangeland and road management practices that were impacting water quality. The report



Thank You!