



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. Geological Survey-Biological Resources Division,  
Western Ecological Research Center



Channel Islands Field Station  
1901 Spinnaker Dr.  
Ventura, California 93001  
(805) 658-5753 FAX (805) 658-5798

11 February 2014

Mr. John P. Donnelly  
Executive Director  
Wildlife Conservation Board  
1807 13<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 103  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

Re: California Islands Restoration Project Proposal

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

We have reviewed the proposal to the State of California's Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for grant support for California Islands restoration work through WCB's Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program, and Endangered Species Habitat Program. USGS-Channel Islands Field Station supports and endorses this project, a perfect complement to USGS research on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands. The work will help conserve rare and unique island habitats, and it addresses several recovery actions for the endangered plants of the islands. USGS will be glad to share research data that contributes to and complements the actions outlined in the proposed work.

Sincerely,

Kathryn McEachern, Ph.D.  
Research Plant Ecologist



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Channel Islands National Park  
1901 Spinnaker Drive  
Ventura, California 93001-4354

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N16 (CHIS)

February 4, 2014

Mr. John P. Donnelly  
Executive Director  
Wildlife Conservation Board  
1807 13<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 103  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

The National Park Service (NPS) would like to offer our strong support for the application of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for the funds from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The title of the Grant proposal is "The Nature Conservancy's California Islands Restoration Project: Invasive Species Eradication and Habitat Protection".

TNC and Channel Islands National Park have a long and productive working relationship. This partnership has invested substantial funds and effort in restoration of Santa Cruz Island and the NPS has also invested in Santa Rosa Island. This proposed project is another step in our collaboration which will further the ecological recovery and stewardship of both islands.

All non-native mainland mammals have been eliminated from both islands. We have undertaken an expansive program, in conjunction with the State of California, to recover the endangered island fox, reestablish bald eagles and peregrine falcons, prevent new introductions, and enhance ecosystem processes. However, challenges remain.

The objectives outlined in TNC's proposal to tackle Argentine ants and the highest priority invasive plant species will be essential in supporting the natural recovery of the islands following the removal of non-native ungulates.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with TNC and the WCB so that Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands can be managed and restored as a complete ecological unit. Both islands provide opportunities to share with visitors the abundant wild life and stunning landscapes of the southern California Channel Islands.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (805) 658-5702, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Russell E. Galipeau, Jr.  
Superintendent





UC NATURAL RESERVE SYSTEM  
C/O MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-6150

Date: January 30, 2014

Re: TNC's California Islands Restoration Project proposal

To whom it may concern:

After reading The Nature Conservancy's California Islands Restoration Project: Invasive Species Eradication and Habitat Protection proposal being submitted to the Wildlife Conservation Board, I would like to offer my full support for the project. The University of California has fostered and supported research and education on Santa Cruz Island and other Channel Islands for the past 58 years. Our researchers have investigated and documented invasive species impacts to the unique resources of the Channel Islands. Additionally, we have witnessed and researchers have published on the results and benefits to island ecosystems following the conservation measures implemented by The Nature Conservancy and Channel Islands National Park. Both of these island managers have an extensive resume of successfully completed large complex projects, and we have no doubt that they will carry out this project with the same dedication, diligence, and innovation.

We believe that this project will further the conservation and habitat enhancement of these islands. Furthermore, the data generated from this project will provide valuable baseline data for research projects and educational efforts to come, which will in turn inform island managers, guide public awareness, and direct future conservation and restoration efforts.

We hope you will support The Nature Conservancy and Channel Islands National Park to achieve their goals to create and protect a healthy native ecosystem on these unique islands of Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa.

Sincerely,

Lyndal Laughrin, Director  
Santa Cruz Island Reserve  
Marine Science Institute  
University of California  
Santa Barbara CA 93106-6150  
Phone: Island: 805-893-7247 or 805-448-3491  
UCSB: 805-893-4127



February 3, 2014

Mr. John P. Donnelly  
Executive Director  
Wildlife Conservation Board  
1807 13th St Ste 103  
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Mr. Donnelly,

Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa islands are biological jewels and provide a unique opportunity for the protection and enhancement of native ecosystems. Located in Santa Barbara County, these islands are home to sixteen state and federally listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species. Noxious and invasive weeds present a significant threat to native plants.

The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service who own and manage these islands are applying to the Wildlife Conservation Board for funding to protect ecosystems and eradicate invasive species. As a park and preserve, these islands will be preserved in a natural state and serve as a reminder of what California looked like before cities, farms, and freeways. The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service are in the position to have the most direct effect on conditions on the island. Funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board is important to eliminate noxious and invasive weeds.

The County of Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's Office supports The Nature Conservancy's application to your board for funding to map and eradicate noxious and invasive weeds on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa islands.

Sincerely,



David Chang  
Agricultural Program Specialist

4 February 2014

To whom it may concern:

I cannot say enough about the importance of preserving the native vegetation and flora of Santa Cruz Island, which includes 8 plant taxa that are restricted to the island and at least 37 additional plant taxa found only on the California Islands.

Now that feral animal populations on the island have almost been eliminated, non-native invasive plants continue to represent a serious threat to some of the island's sensitive native plants. More than a dozen new invasive weeds have been discovered on the island just during the last 10 years, and more will undoubtedly continue to arrive since the island is less than 20 miles away from the California mainland, where non-native plants occur in abundance.

The Nature Conservancy has demonstrated tremendous dedication to eliminating invasive animals and preserving the ecosystem on Santa Cruz Island. The next steps should be the control of invasive plants and the restoration of damaged areas on the island, and TNC has begun an impressive, comprehensive invasive plant project that must be continued and expanded to reap the benefits. I wholeheartedly support the Conservancy's efforts and hope that you will help them to achieve their goals on Santa Cruz Island. The island is a national treasure!

Sincerely,



Denise Knapp  
Director of Conservation and Education  
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden  
[dknapp@sbbg.org](mailto:dknapp@sbbg.org)  
805 291-2408



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, California 93003

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
08EVEN00-2014-CPA-0073

February 5, 2014

Mr. John Donnelly  
Wildlife Conservation Board, Executive Director  
1807 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 103  
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

Channel Islands National Park is an important biological resource that provides unique opportunities for wildlife habitat (such as coastal wetlands) and sanctuary for rare plants and lichen that could not survive on the developed mainland. Both Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands are home to 14 federally endangered or threatened plant taxa. Decades of over-use by grazing animals have put many of these species at risk. Active restoration by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the National Park Service is required to prevent invasive species from out-competing these imperiled species. The isolation of the islands also provides greater opportunity for the management of key threats, such as invasive species.

The proposal submitted to Wildlife Conservation Board by TNC addresses the threat of invasive invertebrates and plants using efficient methodologies pioneered and proven to work on Santa Cruz Island. This comprehensive invasives management program addresses fundamentally damaging, habitat-modifying invasive species while proactively collaborating on biosecurity efforts.

The invasive species management techniques demonstrated on Santa Cruz Island have been replicated on other islands, magnifying the effect of the Santa Cruz Island program. The Nature Conservancy's invasive weed program has influenced programs in Hawaii and this proposal would bring the program to neighboring Santa Rosa Island. Similarly, in the short time the Argentine ant program has been underway on Santa Cruz Island, the U.S. Navy has begun to implement TNC's ant eradication protocol on San Clemente and San Nicolas Islands, both of which are owned and managed by the Navy.

The Nature Conservancy's vision for restoration on the Channel Islands will benefit the rare and endangered species of the Channel Islands, and preserve functional ecosystems for future generations. I hope you will support TNC in the active restoration of the California Channel Islands.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please contact Colleen Draguesku of my staff at 805-644-1766, ext. 229.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Henry  
Acting Field Supervisor

**JANET WOLF**  
County Supervisor, Second District

**MARY E. O'GORMAN**  
Chief of Staff

**HILARY R. CAMPBELL**  
Board Administrative Assistant



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
105 East Anapamu Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

TELEPHONE: (805) 568-2191  
FAX: (805) 568-2283  
E-mail: [jwolf@sbcbos2.org](mailto:jwolf@sbcbos2.org)  
[www.countyofsb.org/bos/wolf](http://www.countyofsb.org/bos/wolf)

## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

February 10, 2014

Mr. John P. Donnelly  
Executive Director  
Wildlife Conservation Board  
1807 13<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 103  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

I am writing to express my support for The Nature Conservancy's grant application to the California Wildlife Conservation Board to restore Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Island's native biota and manage invasive species.

The Nature Conservancy and the Channel Islands National Park work collaboratively together to remove damaging non-native animals from the islands, restore two sub-species of the endangered Island fox, and re-establish bald eagle populations. I was fortunate to travel to Santa Cruz Island several years ago to witness the release of the island foxes bred in captivity, and to learn about the work The Nature Conservancy and Channel Islands National Park are conducting across the archipelago.

The Nature Conservancy and the Channel Islands National Park's current focus is on the abatement of the more chronic, critical threats to the island, mainly those posed by non-native plant and invertebrate species, as well as the threat of new invaders. The funding they are seeking from the Wildlife Conservation Board is vital in their work to proactively manage island resources and to eradicate the Argentine ant and highly invasive plant species. Their biosecurity prevention plan includes a public awareness campaign that is important to averting the arrival of new non-native species to the Island.

The Nature Conservancy's work is essential to fully restore Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands, jewels in the Second District of Santa Barbara County. I strongly support their grant application to the California Wildlife Conservation Board for the important work outlined above.

I can be reached at (805) 568-2191 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Janet Wolf  
Second District Supervisor  
County of Santa Barbara