

AÑO NUEVO STATE PARK - MANAGEMENT ZONE MATRIX (DRAFT)

	Entrance & Interpretive Center Zone	Wildlife & Dune Protection Zone	Cascade Ranch Zone	Lake Elizabeth Zone	Quiroste Valley Zone	Backcountry Zone
Area Description	<p>This zone is characterized by a flat coastal terrace, a ravine, and bluffs. Unique resources include historic structures and sensitive plant and animal species. Located in the southern coastal portion of the park, it serves as the primary park entrance and parking area for visitor access, orientation & interpretation at the Dickerman-Steele Ranch complex that includes elephant seal tours and interpretive programs at the Visitor Center.</p>	<p>This zone includes the coastal area west of the highway, characterized by a coastal bluff, sand dunes, a rocky shoreline, pocket beaches, a broad sandy beach, and also includes the relatively flat and rocky Año Nuevo Island. Much of this coastal zone is currently designated as a Wildlife Protection Area.</p>	<p>This zone encompasses the Cascade Ranch complex located east of State Highway 1 in the southern portion of Año Nuevo SP. The ranch is divided into two ownerships, State Parks and the private-owned Cascade Ranch Historic Farm properties. The ranch forms a part of California State Historic Landmark #906 and appears eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.</p>	<p>This zone is located adjacent to State Highway 1 between Cascade Ranch to the south and Whitehouse Road to the north. The Lake Elizabeth Zone is characterized by annual grasslands on flat terrain and gentle coastal slopes and riparian scrub vegetation surrounding Lake Elizabeth, an agricultural irrigation reservoir.</p>	<p>The Quiroste Valley is a secluded valley of annual grasslands and coyote brush surrounded by forested hills located in the western foothills of the park along the north side of Whitehouse Road.</p>	<p>The Backcountry consists of the more remote uplands areas of the park, characterized by forested mountains, rolling hills covered with grass and chaparral, and riparian canyons with lush undergrowth and large trees. Its northern boundary consists of a linear corridor along Gazos Creek adjacent to Butano SP. The Backcountry is also contiguous to Big Basin Redwoods SP on the east.</p>
Resource Character & Management (Carrying Capacity Objective)	<p>Due to its location with direct access from Hwy. 1, facilities in this zone will continue to serve as the main park entrance and provide visitor orientation, education, and interpretation for the park. It will be managed to provide a variety of recreation and interpretive opportunities and services.</p>	<p>The Wildlife & Dune Protection Zone will be managed primarily to protect and preserve the unique terrestrial and marine wildlife and natural and cultural resources while providing visitor access, education, and interpretation. Most of this coastal zone will be designated as a Natural Preserve, except for an adequate buffer from the highway and adjacent coastal farmlands.</p>	<p>The Cascade Ranch contains historic ranch structures including residences, outbuildings, barn, and a cemetery. The Cascade Ranch Zone, in cooperation with Cascade Ranch Historic Farm, will be managed primarily for historic and cultural landscape values and interpretive potential. The site will also offer trailhead parking for access into the Backcountry, staff housing, and for compatible maintenance functions.</p>	<p>The Lake Elizabeth Zone will be managed primarily for visitor access, recreational use, and natural resource protection.</p>	<p>The Quiroste Valley will be managed as an area of unique cultural resources, with provisions for public access, cultural resource preservation and interpretation, special events, and appropriate visitor use. Most of this inland valley will be designated as a Cultural Preserve. Planning zone areas outside the Cultural Preserve will be a natural open space buffer area.</p>	<p>The Backcountry will be managed primarily to preserve its natural, cultural, and scenic resources and sense of solitude, and provide access and resource connectivity with adjacent Big Basin and Butano State Parks.</p>

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Visitor Experiences (Carrying Capacity Objective)	<p>Visitors experience distinctive natural and cultural resources through nature hikes, exhibits, lectures, and videos at the visitor center-historic ranch complex. Trails will provide visitors of all ability levels to experience the wildlife, landscapes, and historic features of the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High to medium level of use ▪ Frequent contact with others 	<p>Hikers and organized tour groups can observe the elephant seal rookery and explore the wild coastline and dune habitats. An ADA accessible boardwalk and viewing deck are provided. Seasonal use periods contributes to the remote character of the wild coast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low to high use is controlled by organized tours ▪ Low to moderate frequency of contact with others 	<p>Visitors will access and enjoy the remaining features of the historically important Cascade Ranch and understand the rancher's way of life in the traditional agriculture and dairy industries along the coast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low to moderate use ▪ Low to moderate frequency of contact with others 	<p>Visitors will experience spectacular views of forested mountains and rolling brush- and grass-covered foothills to the east and the coast to the west. Visitors will find relaxation, wildlife viewing, trail access, and enroute camping opportunities at this location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medium level of use ▪ Moderate frequency of contact with others 	<p>Visitors will be able to experience and learn about native California Indian culture and history through living history programs, workshops, and special events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low level to moderate use ▪ Low to moderate frequency of contact with others ▪ High frequency of contact and use during special events 	<p>Hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians can explore the park on an extensive trail system and connect with the region's network of multi-use trails to venture into the surrounding Santa Cruz Mountains and coastal areas. A low level of use contributes to the remote character of the Backcountry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low level of use ▪ Infrequent contact with others
Visitor Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Orientation, education, and interpretation of the park ▪ Contact with park staff and volunteers ▪ Group staging for guided hiking tours of the elephant seal rookery ▪ Trailheads & trails ▪ Picnicking ▪ No overnight use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elephant seal tours and wildlife viewing ▪ Hiking on designated trails ▪ Fishing access at Gazos Creek & Beach ▪ Scientific research ▪ Vehicles are directed to authorized roads and trails outside the Natural Preserve ▪ No overnight use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interpretive programs & special events focus on the historic ranch setting and cultural history ▪ Picnicking ▪ Group day use activities ▪ Hiking, biking, and equestrian trail access to Cascade Falls and Lake Elizabeth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trailhead staging ▪ Hiking, biking, and equestrian trail access to Santa Cruz Mountains regional trails and Cascade Ranch ▪ Enroute camping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interpretive programs & special events focused on native California Indian culture & village life ▪ Hiking, biking, and equestrian trail access ▪ Primitive trailside camping or alternative overnight accommodations ▪ No motorized equipment or vehicles unless required for health & safety, park maintenance, or special events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hiking, biking, and equestrian trail access to Santa Cruz Mountains regional trails ▪ Primitive trailside camping
Range of Appropriate Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rehabilitated historic structures adapted for appropriate uses ▪ Visitor center ▪ Restrooms ▪ Vehicular parking ▪ Elephant seal tour staging areas ▪ Orientation & interpretive elements ▪ Trailheads & trails ▪ Picnic sites ▪ Scenic view points ▪ Park offices ▪ Staff housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trailheads, trails & boardwalks ▪ Scenic view points ▪ Interpretive elements ▪ Facilities outside of Preserve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vehicular parking outside of the Natural Preserve - Restrooms outside of Nature Preserve - School group staging area - Staff housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rehabilitated historic structures adapted for appropriate uses ▪ Staff housing ▪ Restrooms ▪ Vehicular parking ▪ Trailheads & trails ▪ Interpretive elements ▪ Picnic sites ▪ Group day-use facilities ▪ Park operations & maintenance facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vehicular parking (capable of accommodating cars, camper vans, recreation vehicles, and horse trailers) ▪ Restrooms ▪ Orientation & interpretive elements ▪ Trailheads & trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reconstructed non-permanent Ohlone village structures & outdoor activity areas ▪ Restrooms ▪ Scenic view points ▪ Interpretive elements outside of Cultural Preserve ▪ Vehicular parking ▪ Trailhead & trails ▪ Permitted trail camps or non-permanent alternative overnight accommodations (with appropriate support facilities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trailheads & trails ▪ Vehicular parking ▪ Restrooms ▪ Scenic view points ▪ Interpretive elements ▪ Picnic sites ▪ Trail camps or horse/bicycle trail camps ▪ Orientation/interpretive & visitor-serving facilities in conjunction with POST