

Interview with Russel Galip@AU

INT: So Russel please describe the Channel Islands National Park, it's creation, the time frame, the number of islands, and the main objectives behind this park.

RG: Well the creation of the Channel Islands National Park really starts in 1938 when the President used his authority under the Antiquities' Act to create a national monument. Two islands were set up at that time, Anacapa Island and Santa Barbara Island, but people always had an interest in this place, an interest in this place for its scientific value, its land use values. So over time that interest continued and with that interest continuing Congress then moved forward with creating Channel Islands National Park in 1980 and that National Park is composed of eight different islands. What we common call the four northern islands and that is Santa Barbara Island, Anacapa Island, Santa Rosa Island, Santa Cruz Island and San Miguel Island.

Did I say eight? I thought I said five. I screwed up because there are eight Channel Islands. Very good for you. Alright.

INT: What were the main objectives in creating this national park and how many island are involved?

RG: Well the Channel Islands is composed of five islands, the four -- the five northern...

INT: The Channel Islands National Park...

RG: The Channel Islands National Park was created in 1980 and is composed of five different islands. Now those islands were set aside for a very specific purposes. Those purposes included the protection of the natural systems; the cultural history, but also the scientific values that we find on these islands. You have got to remember islands, especially these they evolved over time isolated from the mainland, so what you see on these islands is very different than what you see on the mainland and we had this chance to preserve this special place for future generations.

INT: Excellent. What were some of the activities and programs that had to be undertaken when you transitioned to a park?

RG: You know creating a national park it just doesn't happen like magic. There is that there are past uses and as a friend of mine said, who used to work for us, Gary Davis, he would say it's like building a puzzle. What parts of that puzzle exist today? Which pieces of those puzzles are missing? Do you have extra pieces? We have to look at all that, but what's important is we are trying to preserve this very special place, a fabric of America for future generations and what we had to do

is build on that. We had to provide infrastructure to support our visitors but we also have to restore ecosystems. We have to tell a story because it is about who we are as a people.

So Sam do you feel it's too much presentation versus...? Because I feel like I'm giving a talk instead of talking.

INT: No, no, no. Here is a chance to talk. Let's get into a couple of specific programs and change. Tell us the story, talk to us about a couple of the initiatives that were undertaken as the part evolved. It could be clearing of an ecosystem. It could be restoring a species.

RG: You know when you go to manage a park as I have always alluded to, this building of a puzzle, is that you want to -- Congress said, 'Look take care of this very special place.' We had private land owners who had a rich history of using the islands, like the Valle family or the Greeney's who farmed, not farmed it but ranched the islands and that ah we had to transition them from a ranching to now a national park.

And we had ecosystems that had exotic species in them or exotic plants or animals so we had to find out, how do we manage those? How do we remove them?

But you know the other piece is what's missing? You know what used to be out here? And what used to be out here were things like bald eagles and what role did they play in the ecosystem and how do you bring them back?

And then there is other questions like, so what's on the edge of extinction? Because the one thing about islands is things can come and go quickly. So we want to look at those and see what have we as humans done to impact those species and can we unravel that question? And the Island Fox is one of those big questions. It had lots of challenges and we as a conservation agency could we protect that fox and we have.

INT: Can you talk briefly about the bald eagle situation? The fact that they essentially have become extinct and that they have been brought back? Just tell that story?

RG: You know bald eagles on the Channel Islands is a fascinating story. With the use of DDT in the environment what we saw was a lot of egg thinning throughout the Americas with the DDT or the DDE getting into the bald eagle and into his blood stream. So what we saw was the virtual eradication... I've got to do that one over. Yeah it wasn't eradication.

INT: Go ahead.

RG: What we say ah virtually was the disappearance of bald eagles from the Channel Islands. Now that's one of the pieces of the, the puzzle that we're missing here at the Channel Islands is this big magnificent bird. Look, America's symbol that is missing from its native land. So we wanted to put it back. So we worked with the conservation groups and we worked with our partners, but you know who we also worked with is the citizens

of Southern California to say, 'Let's bring this species back.' And I'm proud to say that you know we are now looking at the one hundredth fledged bird this year since we have started this program and that we've had over twenty-six nesting pairs out here on the Channel Islands. So just fifteen years ago you saw no bald eagles. Today you see bald eagles. What's even more important about this story is we talk about hope. If we want to save a species; we want to save a piece of land for the enjoyment by future generations come out here and see what we've done to the Channel Islands. This is a place we can build upon hope.

INT: Let's talk about the intent of Congress when it creates a national park to get back to a more original state and specifically here the sort of background that lead to the closing of the Valle or Vicar's Ranch. What is behind the legislation or can you explain the legislation that ultimately lead to the creation of Santa Rosa as a park, part of the park and then the phasing out of the ranch? Before you answer I just step back.

RG: With the creation of the national parks it's always important to remember that when Congress set up the National Park Service one hundred years ago in 1916 they said, 'You -- Your job is go conserve the scenery, the scenery, the wildlife, the historic objects therein, but for the enjoyment of future

generations in an unimpaired condition.' That is very important to understand and each park is created differently.

In the case of the Channel Islands they said what was important was the scientific values, the cultural history, the natural history, but also the archeology and the paleontology. So when the park was created in 1980 there were private land owners and so what the Congress said was, 'Work with those private land owners and on a willing selling basis if they want to give their property to the National Park Service they should and you give them fair market value.'

In the case of our two primary land owners on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands, Santa Rosa the Valle family, the Greeney's on Santa Cruz Island we did have willing sellers. Now did they openly embrace incorporation into the national park? No, it's a new idea. You're changing their lifestyles, but do they -- do they eventually do that? Yes, they did and so on Santa Rosa Island the Valles with a very rich history of cattle ranching and even before that they Moore family, a rich history of ranching on the islands. They did ultimately you know as willing sellers sell to the National Park Service to preserve this great place for future generations.

Now what they were allowed as a willing seller is they are allowed a twenty-five year use and occupancy. The Greeney's were offered the same thing. They were sheep ranching on Santa Cruz

Island and the same opportunity for them. You know? move from your value system of managing a ranch into a new value system, a value system that's about conserving these, this special place for America's ah future enjoyment.

INT: Tim Valle, we're almost done with this segment. Are you feeling okay? You're doing good. What do you say Brian?

B: It looks good.

RG: Evan is sitting there going, 'What a jerk. This guy is amazing.' Right Evan? He's not even listening to me. No, he's a great guy.

INT: Tim Valle suggested that Santa Rosa Island today could be part national park and part ranch. He says he doesn't seem to see too much public use and benefit right now. How would you respond to that?

RG: You know the, the transition of the islands that were privately owned takes time so you move from what were active ranches like in the case of the Santa Rosa with the Valle family is that you had folks that were leaving a value system and a livelihood and now moving into a national park. And of course they they invested their whole life and their lifestyle. Well now we move to a national park and Congress was specific about how we were to protect these islands and a big part of that was conservation or the preservation of natural and cultural resources but not a lifestyle of ranching. But what's really

important about this being a national park is telling the Valle story; telling the Greeney story is that we get to tell people how these island evolved over time, the peopling of the islands but also the natural history of the islands and what makes them important today.

So we get to tell the whole story. You don't have to have ranching. You don't have to have the Chinese fishery, abalone fishery that used to exist but what is important? To tell that story.

INT: Excellent answer. Let me just double check here. Brent do you have anything you want to ask?

B: Yes. I want to ask and I know it's in there, I want to ask about the future. What's the future? What are the plans for the future?

RG: So the ah -- Yeah I will. I'm sorry about that. So the future of the Channel Islands is to make sure we have an ecosystem intact that we can share with future generations. I like to say that these are the islands of hope. People characterize them as the Galapagos of California but do the Galapagos of California because there are unique species that exist on these islands. Well let's make sure those unique species are around for future generations.

And so that's what's important, the future is about having people come out here, have that experience. Look we sit on the

edge of eighteen million people with hundreds of cultures right here in Los Angeles. Can you imagine exposing all of them to what is America's heritage Channel Islands National Park?

INT: What's good about your job and what do you love about the islands?

RG: Okay, when they, one of my most favorite things about managing this park is watching how the staff work together to protect this place for future generations and every time I step out here and I see the work that they have done and their dedication, and it's not just park staff dedication it's really the dedication of the people, the citizenry of America who said, 'We believe in what you're doing and we want to help you do it.' and every time I come out here I can turn that cell phone off. I know there is no telephone and I too can enjoy the purposes of the national park, spiritual renewal, seeing ecosystems intact, learning about their history. I love this place just like every other citizen and anybody else in the world.

INT: I have a last question. What is the arts that are behind you? Can you describe the scenery, the topography that we are fortunate enough to be in front of?

RG: Yeah, Yvonne give me some quick notes here. Ah

INT: You don't have to. What's it called and so on.

RG: Okay, so ah we had the fortunate of having right behind be Anacapa Arch which is sort of the iconic view of the park

when ever you see people depicting Channel Islands National Park you see the Arch. This was a connection of the -- to the island at at some point in history and over time it has eroded away and so this is just a great symbol of what Channel Islands is and it's all these little islets, these little rocks, these little reefs, these small islands that support this incredible place that we call Channel Islands.

INT: So to go along with that I would like to get some ??
Would you mind going to the exterior and follow him?

RG: Go to the edge, yeah.

B: Safely, but yeah look out at the arches.

RG: Sort of like an over the shoulder?

F: Yeah, you can point out. I understand you can actually skin dive...underneath the archeological.

RG: You could ah...you can. You just have to watch out for the currents when you're out here. But as you can see this was, when the island was first ah, ah owned and operated by the Federal Government it was by the light station or the light keepers and so in 1938 this island was established as a national monument by President Roosevelt but what this island becomes is also a sanctuary for sea birds. And for the sea birds that are on this island they only come to this island during the ah their mating season and their nesting season and they never touch land until that time of their life period. So if you don't have

places like this in America for these animals to survive, their place to have their chicks, what happens to those species?

You've got to have these special places and in this case the (Scripts) Murrelet that after it hatches from its egg when it's two days old this tiny little chick, that looks like a cotton ball is on top of these cliffs and Mom flies down to the water, chirps up to that chick, and that chick at two days old jumps off those cliffs. Now tell me why we can't have places left in the world to provide that bird an opportunity to survive? That chick won't come back to this island or any other land until it is sexually mature and it's ready to have its own chicks.

RG: Let me tell you another story about this island.

INT: Yeah and then I have something else, but go ahead.

RG: You know one of the important pieces about Anacapa Island and I think it really tells us something about how much people love their national park. Two years ago I established a challenge, or I put a challenge out to the people of Ventura and Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Counties and I said, 'Help me restore this island. Help me review, remove the ice plants from this island that was planted here because we thought it was a good thing to do. And I want you to do it. I want you, this would be an expression of citizenship and people looked at me and said, 'that's an awfully big challenge. How are you going to

get the public to do that?' Well I want you to know that the public rallied around that cause. The public came out here, school groups, elementary school groups, high school, college, retirement communities, you name it and they came out here. They decided to spend their time, their monies, and their talents to help us eradicate ice plant, but it's not about getting rid of ice plant, it's about restoring native communities and they did it and we can only thank the people who love their national parks because they did it.

INT: Some people have never seen the Channel Islands. How do you describe them?

RG: So here is what I would say to you folks who have never been to the Channel Islands. It can be a little daunting. You have to take a boat ride, but what I'm going to suggest to you is take that time in your schedule, come out to these places. If you want to know what it's like to be in isolation you want that place where it's quiet for you to contemplate. You want to experience something new, take, do this for yourself. Do this for your family, come out to the Channel Islands, separate yourself from the material world and enjoy being by yourself and having the National Park show you the way.

INT: I have another question. Where should we be looking? This question is the opposite of what you just said, you were talking about coming out here, enjoying the isolation, being

yourself. Can you describe how Channel Islands National Park uses the internet to take the resources of this island and others around the world through class rooms and under water diving, tell us how you use technology and reference this site? Here we are right on this site, right by this arch behind me and we can take this anywhere in the world and we do. That sort of thing.

RG: Good. That's a great one. So what's always important about our national parks is we're here to protect these special places for future generations but we know a place like Channel Islands is hard to experience. So we have invested in a way of bringing the park to the people and we do that by having partnerships with our local county office of education and doing live streaming broadcasts from the islands to the main lands right into the classroom. Now when I say a live streaming broadcast I'm not talking about one way communication like watching a movie or a TV show. This is where students can actually take a microphone in their classroom, look on a screen what they are seeing and what they're seeing on the screen is a diver in this cove right behind me talking about the ocean ecosystem and asking that diver questions about what is it like to be under water. Tell me what you see under water and then that diver acknowledging that student and saying, 'Well this is a Garibaldi', or 'this is the kelp forest'. What we have

invested in is that technology to bring the park to the people because we know that not everybody will come to Channel Islands but we're going to do our best to bring it to you.

INT: Excellent. Hang on one second.

RG: One of my favorite things to do on Anacapa Island when I come out here is to reflect on the ecological restoration that we have done. When I first came here they just finished the project where they were eradicating the black rat from this island, which was having a tremendous impact on the Scripts Murrelet. But one of the challenges I put out to the community, we have lots of volunteers ah ah you know over a thousand volunteers help us at this park and within the marine sanctuary, is I offered a challenge and that was, 'How do we change the vegetation type?' because we had so much ice plant on this island that was introduced. How do we restore back to some sense of naturalness? Well the community stepped up and the community said, 'We'll help you do it.' So I offered a challenge. 'Could we eradicate ice plant from this island by 2016?' Well here we are today. It's not quite 2016. It's not quite the hundredth anniversary of the National Park Service, but I will tell you that through volunteerism we have eradicated ice plant from this island. And the best way to get an example of that is to look. Where I just walked through is an area that was as going through ecological restoration but look at where all the coreopsis is

behind me. Those have all areas that have become restored with the eradication of ice plant.

So one of the considerations when we were creating this relatively new park is we look at the structures that exist at the time that the park comes into the system. These are actually historic buildings from the Coast Guard era. There were quarters. They had shops but also this large building off to my right. That was a water tanks because all the fresh water, drinking water for this island had to be brought up to the island itself. They tries cistern systems but they never really worked out very well. But ah you know living on an island in isolation is tough. You've got to bring all your supplies out here and then the visitors they come out here and that is one of the things they actually cherish, is the isolation.

And so you see here we're in almost peek coreopsis bloom. Very relaxing. Very nice setting. Look at the ocean. Out here by yourself. And ah it's time to really kind of make peace. That's it. Okay.

[00:23:17]

Yeah I remember my first time coming out to the Islands I was, we were heading out to Santa Rosa and the marine biologist was on the boat and we had really dead calm ah seas, and I looked at him and I said, 'Well you know if you're worth your weight then I would expect to see some whales or an Orca.' And

all of a sudden I heard the captain turn the boat off. It just went quiet. I was wondering, 'What's going on?' and he said, 'Look over on the port.' On the port side was this large male Orca just moving along beside the boat. I turned to the biologist and said, 'I guess you earned your keep.' It was one of my most memorable days on the ocean.

INT: How was it to see an Orca? Pretty cool?

RG: It was just amazing you know to think that it just happened. I think so many of our visitors they forget that the park is not just the islands. It's also one mile into the ocean and for over thirty years we have been doing as much work in the ocean as we have been doing on the land. So here you see a lot of the ecological restoration, but in the water we have been monitoring the kelp forest in itself for over thirty years.

INT: (inaudible phrase) Why does that matter?

RG: Well you know one of the things that we have learned over time is that the national parks serve as like a canary in a coal mine. That if we are taking care of them, and they're as much in their natural state as possible we can measure all the pressures being put on it and get an idea of change, but the other thing we serve as is refugia for species. A place where they can come to and know they can nest. A no, a place where they know they have habitat and that becomes very important for their survival. So a big part of the ecological restoration

isn't just taken out the non-native plants it's you've got to give the ecosystem a little help.

So folks like this come out and they're taking the native plants grown in the nursery, actually collected from seed right here on the island and then put back in place. So instead of seeing ice plant you now see native vegetation.

So this was the Catch Water. So the idea was after a rain you would collect the rain water, funnel it down to the end, then move it to the water tanks. And it could function that way but you've got to keep it clean and as you can see it has become a favorite place for the Western Gulls to hang out. So it makes it a little harder to have clean water.

Yeah one of the important pieces of growing the park is providing people the opportunity to come out and enjoy the park. So if you're one of those few who pulls a camping permit for Anacapa when that ba -- when the boat rolls away, or floats away at the end of the day with all the day visitors you're one of a handful of people staying in the campground and you've got this island to yourself. Now tell me where else in Southern California can you come to, spend the night, and feel like you own the place?

[00:28:11]

Yeah, so you're going to see a lot of bones as you walk on this island. The ah birds that you see are the Western Gull and

so they rely on this island for ah laying their eggs and rearing their young, but these are the same birds you see on the mainland that are un, unfortunately raiding dumpsters, and a lot of the bones that you see are actually chicken bones. They found a favorite place where there is a lot of scraps from probably a restaurant that serves a lot of chicken and that's what you're seeing. You're not seeing bones from birds on this island. You're seeing a lot of unfortunately garbage brought over by the gulls.

Well they are. They are um during the breeding season they're very territorial and that's one of the things we ask visitors to be very careful is when they're enjoying this island you know we allow them to come out, out here during the peak of the breeding season. Now we take measures to try and close off areas to make sure we're not impacting the population as a whole but if you come out here you get to see the whole life cycle. You get to see the birds coming to the island. You get to see the birds setting up their territories, building their nests, laying their eggs, hatching the eggs, feeding their chicks, but also these birds are real territorial so when those chicks start to become mobile and the start to move between territories you start to see aggression between families. You know it's part of nature, but you experience it out here. It's not always a pretty sight, but it is part of life on the island.

INT: Russell could you explain to us the cycle of restoration on Santa Cruz Island. I realize that much of that was native conservancy work but what's involved with the restoration process goes on in terms of the interrelationship of species. One species is identified as needing to go but it's because other things can pile on and achieve progress. So what is the cycle of restoration? What's the story of (inaudible phrase)

RG: So one of the great stories about the Channel Islands is when Congress set this aside they really pointed out the importance of scientific value. So islands are very fragile communities worldwide. Species get introduced to them and they can really change the whole system. So what we did is we took a holistic approach and when we look at ah managing a park I like to say we look at building a puzzle and what are the pieces that you have? What is missing? Where extra? And so in the particular case here in the park we had some extra pieces and we had some missing pieces.

On Santa Cruz Island we saw a missing piece which was the Bald Eagle, the American Bald Eagle that once was all over these islands and then we had extra pieces and those extra pieces were Feral Pigs because there was pig farming on the island and then they became feral. So what? So what's the big deal there? Well the big deal is that when you lose your Bald Eagle and you have

pigs you introduce a new food source for another predator. That predator would be the Golden Eagle. And then the Golden Eagle comes in and this wasn't frequented by Golden Eagles. At least it wasn't an area where they set up residency or built nests. The Bald Eagles would help keep them at bay. But what happens is now you have the Golden Eagle who hunts during the day time. The Bald Eagle primarily a fish eater or one who eats carrion. They're missing. Golden Eagles are here. Pigs two litters a year, about nine piglets. Perfect prey size, but it also lead to something very damaging. So part of that puzzle is you're going to start to lose another piece and that piece was the Island Fox. So the Island Fox was out during the day, evolved without aerial predators and now all of a sudden becomes this perfect prey package for the Golden Eagle.

So what we had to do as a park is work with the academic community and other conservation groups like our friends at the Nature Conservancy to say, 'How do we address this problem?' So that's exactly what we did. Put the missing pieces back. Started a Bald Eagle re-establishment program. So instead of having no Bald Eagles here, put them back on the islands. Eradicate the pigs. Remove the food source for the Golden Eagle and then for the Golden Eagle live capture the Golden Eagles, work with the State of California to relocate them to other places where you could say that is truly their native grounds. And then protect

the fox and protecting the fox meant bringing them into captivity for a period of time, working on breeding programs for them. Nobody had done this before so we had to work with zoos, even the Washington Zoo and experts who are our (canine) experts coming together to say, 'How do you do this?' because our goal was not only to put the Bald Eagle back, but to make sure we could put the Island Fox back into the wild.

So we worked with conservation groups. We worked with veterinarians. We worked with universities. We worked with the citizens around us. We worked with other Federal agencies and really working on Santa Cruz Island with a nature conservancy we could pull it all together and I'm happy to say today we have over twenty-six pairs of bald eagles on these islands. We have not more pigs on the islands and the fox that was in captivity is now, they are all now back in the wild. And an animal that went on the endangered species list in a matter of a year, we're looking at we can maybe de-list this ten to twelve years later from the day it was listed.

Now if that isn't helping us all have hope about protecting these great places we call National Parks I don't know what is. And that's what we're here for. We're here to tell you about an important part of you as Americans and your history and that is Channel Islands. We'll talk to you about the culture, how the Islands were used, but we will also tell you about the

importance of the Islands and the waters that surround them and preserving a part of America. That's what the National Park is all about.

INT: That was a perfect answer. You couldn't have covered that any better.

RG: Oh, I don't know. Somebody else could have probably done it better.

INT: No, no, would you like a sip of water?

RG: No, I'm good. Oh we've got another question. What's your other question?

INT: The other question is going to be about the planning process and the plan?

RG: Oh, god I hate plans.

INT: But I just wanted to ask you one follow up on the pigs. There was a fair amount of controversy at the time that the restoration program was under way and that the pigs were being eradicated and it also became the subject of T.C. Boyle's book When the Killing's Done. By the way were you here at the time of that controversy?

RG: I was. I was.

INT: Could you just speak to what it was like to listen to that controversy and try to address it and be fair to it and how does the people who were against it then feel today? Did they come around? What was it like in the middle of that fight?

RG: Well you know any time you do ecological ecological restoration where people take sides and they think you you're picking good species over bad species and what we would always try to remind people was we were trying to keep the pieces of the Channel Islands, those things that were native to the Channel Islands were disappearing. So although people would say you were eradicating the pig or you were killing the pigs, I would like to say is, 'No we are actually saving the fox and if you value the fox, you value the natural resources that evolved on this Island then sometimes you have to take different measures to save them.' So that's how we would always would address this.

If there were other ways -- the Golden Eagle's a great example. There was -- there was a way to capture Golden Eagles and relocate them into places in California. The pig, it was not an easy task. You could capture them but who would take them? And so that was the problem. You could capture them.

And the other piece is people would always say, 'Why don't you just control them?' Well if you control then you're making a long term commitment to them always being out on the Islands and that's a long term commitment of Federal dollars, but it's also long term impact to the ecosystem. The ecosystem is not able to function because at some point when it falls out of balance again you're going to have the same problems reoccurring. So the

idea was eradication and we had to work really strongly and closely with the nature conservancy to make sure we could, we could accomplish this.

And I think the public they have asked us, 'Did you achieve what you set out to do?' And I am proud to say we did and I am also very proud to say that some of those people who questioned us in the past, they have come back to us and said, 'You did achieve what you said you were going to do and thank you for doing it.'

INT: Excellent. You're great after a cup of coffee.

RG: I try not to drink coffee when I'm on a boat.

INT: Okay, last couple of questions and we're done.

RG: Sure.

INT: It's about the plan. Could you just explain to us the mandate of a planning process and if you have to do it and then quickly how it occurs and remember this film is going to have a ten-twenty-thirty year life so keep it around the general and I might ask some follow up questions.

RG: Well that's good because that's the life of the plan. Yeah, so planning in the National Park Service is, is very important. A lot of people think that once we've carved these places out they just manage themselves. Well they don't. You know remember we want to try and encourage people to come to these places that they love. Remember the parks are about who we

are as Americans. So you have to provide some amenities. You have to decide, are you going to have camping or are you not going to have camping? Where are you going to put the camping if you're going to have it? Are you going to have any kind of concession opportunity? A kayak, kayaking operation? Anything like that? So we have to plan for those and how much infrastructure? So we took it through a public process, a general management plan and what we heard a lot from the public was, 'We like it the way it is.' So we knew there were things we had to improve on. We knew the public wanted some overnight accommodations, but how do you do that without increasing your footprint on the island? And this is where we look at the past uses.

So when we look at the Valle Ranch on Santa Rosa Island we see those buildings. They're historic structures. We want to maintain those to tell part of that ranching story, but we could adapt and reuse those buildings to meet either a research purpose or a public purpose of overnight accommodations. So we look at some of these old practices or these old uses and then how do we capitalize on those? So we don't have water in places. Some places we don't have trails. So the whole idea was trying to put this all together and work with the public.

And part of that was also the kind of wilderness. Is ah you know Congress had asked us, 'Look at wilderness, decide what

parts of the Park should we actually Congress designate as wilderness and maybe how much of the Park we should wait to a later time to remove some of the non-conforming elements so it would be a better wilderness.'

So park planning is difficult, because you've got everything from people who would like to see a hotel out on the Islands to everybody who would like to see nothing on the Islands. So we try and strike that balance working with the public. Our plan, we hope that it will be in place for twenty to forty years and we want to take a slow go at it. We want to make sure whatever we do, we do right and is it sustainable? Because if it's not sustainable then it becomes very expensive to manager things off shore. But the best, most important piece is will people enjoy their experience and will they walk away from Channel Islands rejuvenated and will they walk away saying, 'I learned something.' But more importantly will they walk away and say, 'I really am am glad that this is a national park and I can trust that this organization is going to make sure that this place is here for future generations to enjoy', and that is what we're looking for.

INT: Terrific. Last question. Are there any groups of during the input process were there any groups that were really adamant about one thing or another who pounded the table, who yelled, who insisted or was the process more moderate and

collegial? Did you have to weigh high emotion or did you have warm consensus? What was the process like?

RG: You know any, any time we do a planning process with the National Park Service whether it's an ecological restoration um project or it's a plan like a general management plan you have people who become very polarized on certain topics. You know my job is to listen to them. You know sometimes it takes that extreme point of view to help bring us back to a middle of reasonableness. And so I have never shied away from listening to the extreme point of view because sometimes the extreme point of view is actually more right than they are wrong, but we also have to draw out from the quiet people is, what is it the experience that they want to see happen? And that's always the balancing act for us in the National Park Service has and as managers is bring it out and let's talk about it, but it has to be always put into the context as, 'What is the bar, the Park all about? What did Congress specifically tell you to do and then how do you move it into the future?'

INT: Great, thank you. Done.

END OF RECORDING

+++++

