



U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## Los Angeles Coastal Area Special Resource Study

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### Public Meetings

February 11, 2026 (1:00-2:30 pm PT)  
March 11, 2025 (6-7:30 pm PT)

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### Project Website

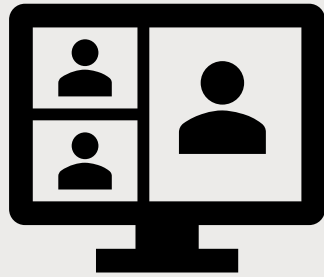
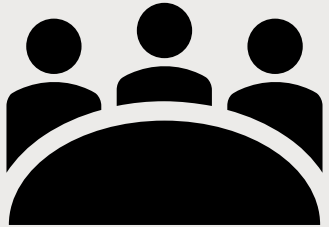
[Parkplanning.nps.gov/LosAngelesCoastal](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/LosAngelesCoastal)



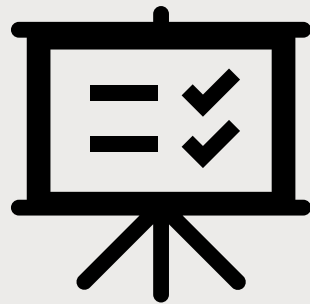
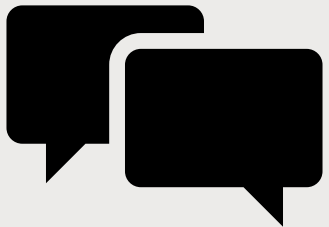


# Meeting Goals

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- **Introduce** the special resource study
  - What is a special resource study?
  - Why is the National Park Service conducting this study?
- **Explain** the study process and answer questions
  - What is the study area?
  - What are the criteria for evaluation?
  - What is the study timeline?
- **Invite** you to share feedback
  - How can I provide input?





Project website: [parkplanning.nps.gov/LosAngelesCoastal](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/LosAngelesCoastal)

**National Park Service** (PEPC) Planning, Environment & Public Comment

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### PROJECT LINKS

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- [Plan Process](#)
- [Meeting Notices](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Document List](#)
- [Open For Comment \(1\)](#)

A comment period for this project closes **Apr 6, 2026: 55 Days, 11 Hours, 13 Min.**

## Los Angeles Coastal Area Special Resource Study

[Denver Service Center](#) » [Los Angeles Coastal Area Special Resource Study](#)

Welcome to the Los Angeles Coastal Area Special Resource Study project website. The National Park Service will use this website to display public information throughout the course of this study. Meeting dates and locations will be posted here, along project updates.

We invite the public to attend a virtual public meeting, see 'Meeting Notices' tab. We also invite the public review materials under the 'Open for Comment' tab and share feedback with the study team.

### What is a Special Resource Study?

New national park units are typically added to the National Park Service (NPS) by an Act of Congress. However, before Congress decides to create a new park or add land to an existing park, it needs to know whether the area meets established criteria for designation as a national park unit. This evaluation is conducted through a special resource study.

The purpose of this special resource study is to gather information about select sites along the Los Angeles coast through research and public input, and then to report these findings to Congress. The special resource study will evaluate the potential for inclusion of the Los Angeles coast in the national park system based upon whether it meets established criteria for significance, suitability, feasibility, and the need for NPS

# Instructions for this virtual meeting

A screenshot of a virtual meeting interface. The interface includes a top search bar, a left sidebar with navigation icons (Activity, Chat, Teams, Calls, Files, Calendar), and a main content area. At the bottom, there is a control bar with a play/pause button, a volume icon, a microphone icon, the text "LIVE 1:06 / 2:46", and icons for video, settings, and share. Two white arrows point from the text "Adjust the sound" to the volume icon and from the text "Turn on closed captioning" to the settings icon.

Adjust the sound

Turn on closed captioning

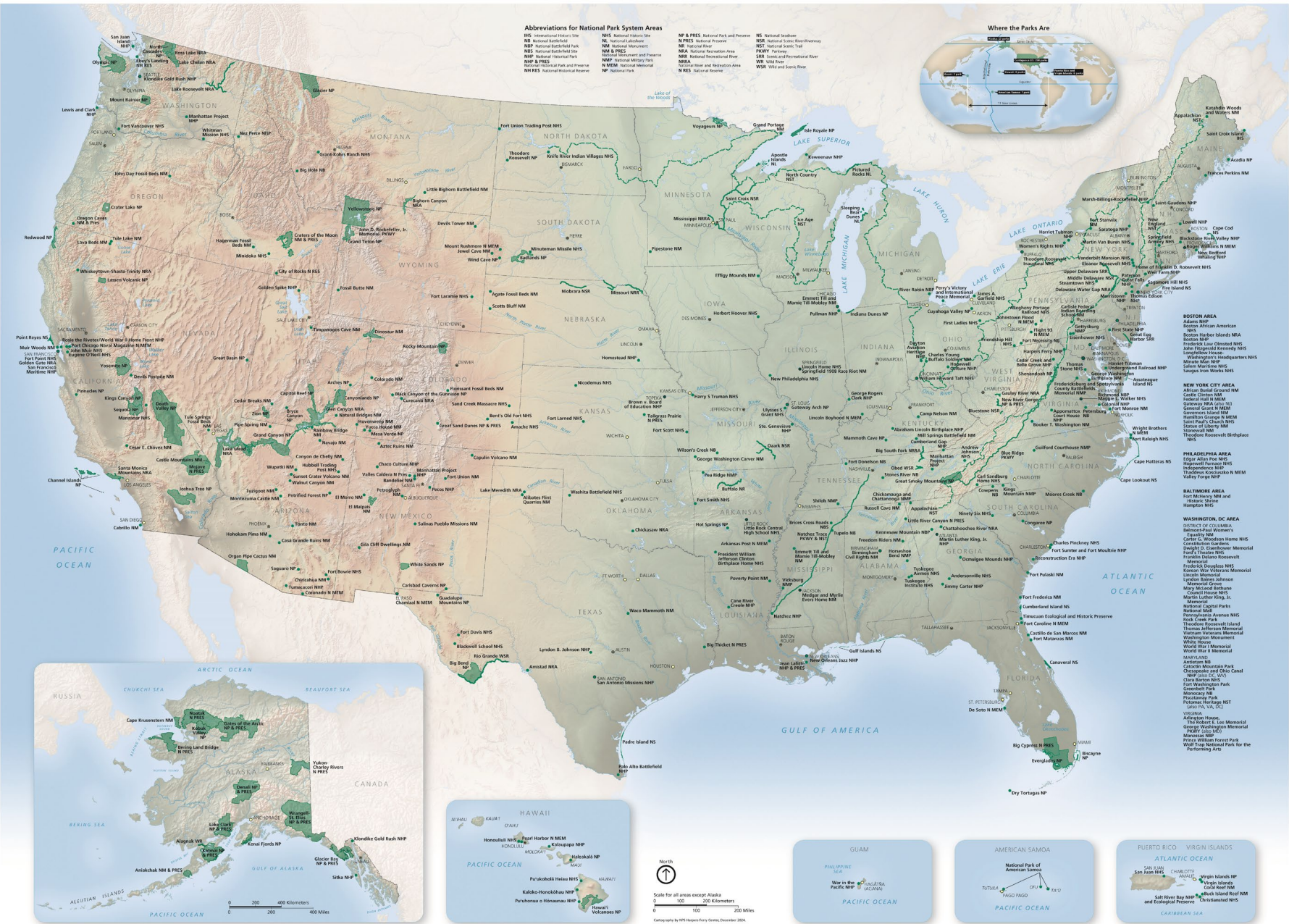
# Instructions for this virtual meeting



A screenshot of the Microsoft Teams interface. The left sidebar shows navigation options: Activity, Chat, Teams, Calls, Files, and Calendar. The main area is dark with a search bar at the top. In the top right, there are icons for help, settings, and a Q&amp;A icon. A white arrow points from a callout box to the Q&amp;A icon. The callout box contains the text "View or hide Q&amp;A". On the right side, a "Live event Q&amp;A" panel is visible, showing "No featured questions yet" and an "Ask a question" button at the bottom.

View or hide Q&A

# National Park System



# National Park System Overview

- 433 units of the National Park System



# What is a Special Resource Study?

## Special Resource Studies

- Provide Congress with non-binding information about the resource qualities in a study area for its consideration as a unit of the national park system or other special designation
- Evaluate the area based on established special resource study criteria; and
- Are prepared for the Secretary of Interior, who will submit the study along with any recommendations, to Congress for reference and consideration.

**A study itself does not establish a new unit of the national park system.**

- Only **Congress** through legislated action or the **President** through the Antiquities Act has the authority to establish a new unit of the national park system.





# Why is the National Park Service conducting this study?

## SEC. 634. RESOURCE STUDY OF THE LOS ANGELES COASTAL AREA, CALIFORNIA.

(a) DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA.—In this section, the term “study area” means the coastline and adjacent areas to the Santa Monica Bay from Will Rogers State Beach to Torrance Beach, including the areas in and around Ballona Creek and the Baldwin Hills and the San Pedro section of the City of Los Angeles, excluding the Port of Los Angeles north of Crescent Avenue.

### (b) SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the study area.

(2) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) evaluate the national significance of the study area;

(B) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System;

(C) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(D) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals; and

(E) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives.

(3) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available for the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(A) the results of the study; and

(B) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

- Public Law 117-328 directed the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the **national significance** of the study area and determine the **suitability** and **feasibility** of designating it as a unit of the national park system.
- The Department of the Interior charged the National Park Service (NPS) with the preparation of this special resource study.



# Preliminary Study Area

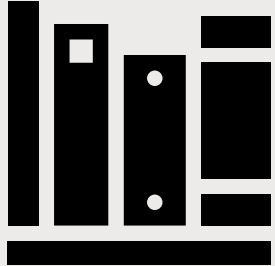


The legislation defines the study area as **the coastline and adjacent areas to the Santa Monica Bay from Will Rogers State Beach to Torrance Beach, including the areas in and around Ballona Creek and the Baldwin Hills and the San Pedro section of the City of Los Angeles, excluding the Port of Los Angeles north of Crescent Avenue.**



# Study Criteria

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Congressional legislation and NPS policy require using the following criteria to evaluate the study site. A study site or area must meet all four criteria:

- Must contain **nationally significant resources;**
- Must be **suitable;**
- Must be **feasible** as a potential unit of the NPS system; and
- Must require **direct management by the NPS**



# Criterion 1 - National Significance

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- Contains **nationally significant natural** and/or **cultural resources**
- For cultural resources, **National Historic Landmark criteria** are applied to determine whether a site is nationally significant
  - Events, individuals, buildings, or archeological sites that had a national impact on U.S. history
  - High level integrity (i.e., unchanged)

*Photo: Point Loma Lighthouse,  
Cabrillo National Monument, CA*



# Criterion 1 - National Significance

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- For natural resources, an area will be considered nationally significant if it meets **all** the following criteria:
  - It is an **outstanding example** of a particular type of resource
  - It possesses **exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage.**
  - It offers **superlative opportunities for public enjoyment or for scientific study.**
  - It retains a high degree of **integrity** as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource.

*In situ Mammoth at Waco Mammoth  
National Monument, TX*



## Criterion 2 - Suitability

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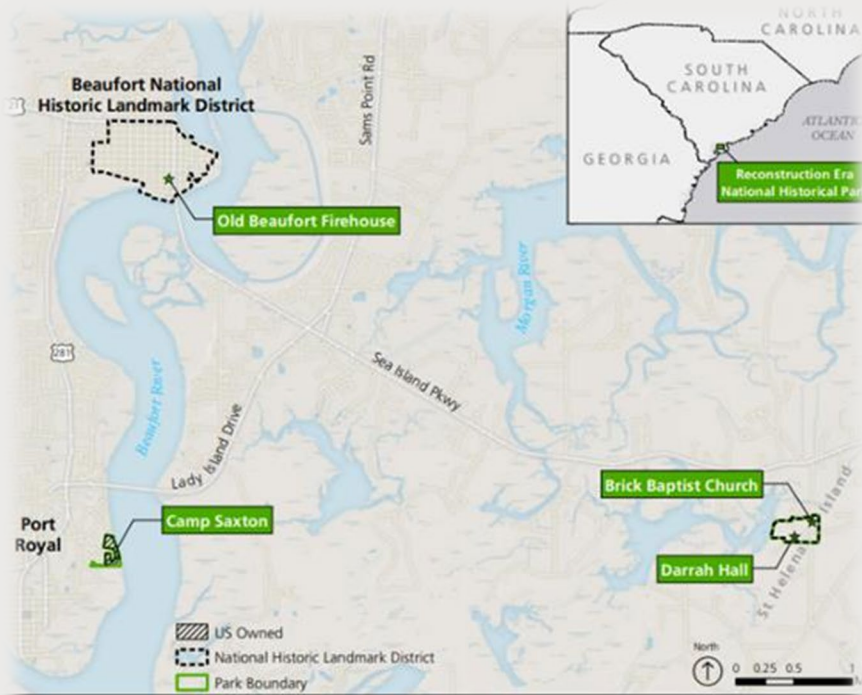
- Represents a natural or cultural resource that is **not already adequately represented** in the national park system

OR

- Is not comparably represented and **protected for public enjoyment by another land-managing entity**

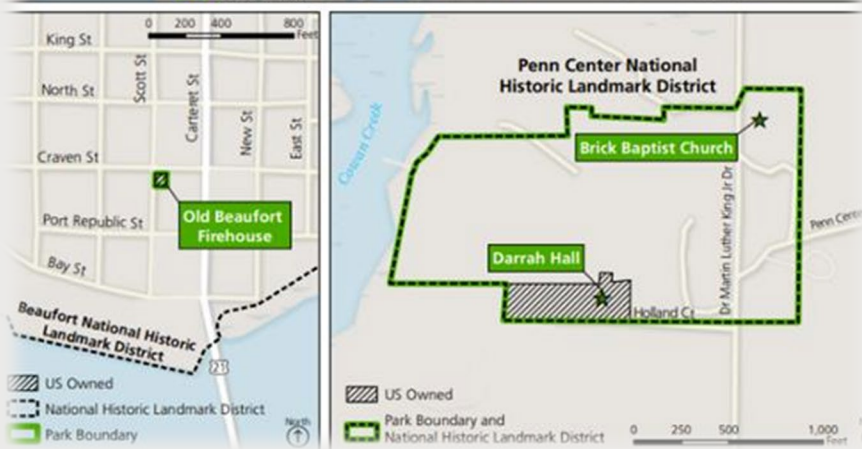


*Photo: Joshua Trees at  
Joshua Tree National Park, CA*



# Criterion 3 - Feasibility

- **Sufficient size and appropriate configuration** to ensure **long-term protection** of the resource and **visitor enjoyment**
- Capable of **efficient administration** by the National Park Service at a **reasonable cost**
- Other important feasibility factors include:
  - Landownership
  - Acquisition costs
  - Life cycle maintenance costs
  - Access
  - Threats to the resource
  - Staff or development requirements



Map of Reconstruction Era National Historical Park including the site's boundary and nearby roads.

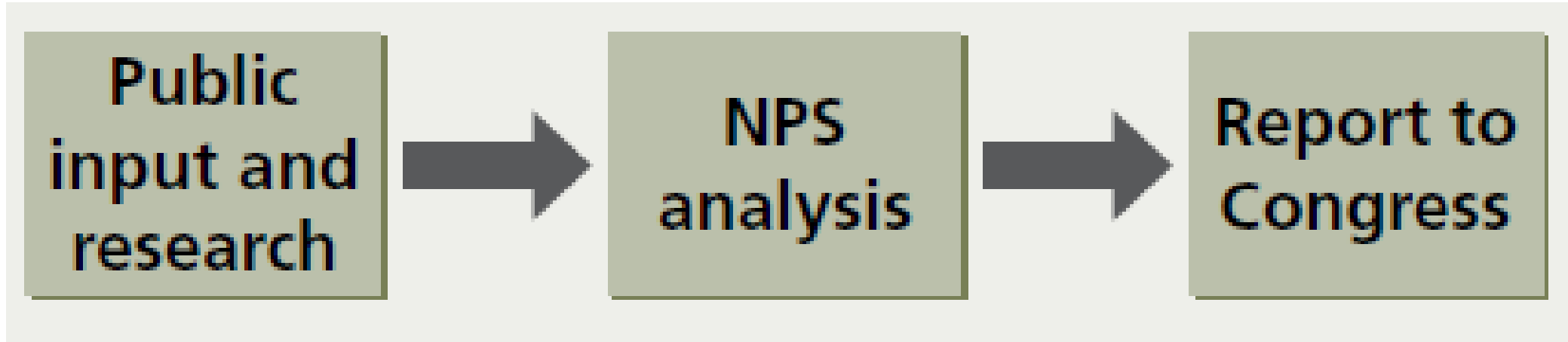


# Criterion 4 – Need for NPS Management

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**Requires direct National Park Service management** that is clearly superior to other management approaches



## Study Process

- Linear process
- Findings and recommendations will be submitted to Congress
- There is no timeline for further action
- Only **Congress** or the **President** have authority to designate a new unit of the National Park System

# Range of park unit management

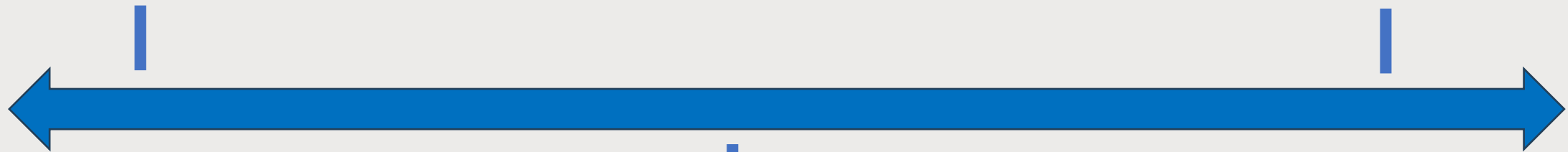


## 100% NPS ownership

- NPS is fully responsible for all park functions, including management and maintenance of property within park boundary, park operations, visitor programs, etc.
- Partner organizations may support the park, but have no management responsibility
- *This is most national park units*

## NPS management without ownership

- NPS does not own, administer, or maintain property within the park boundary
- NPS may use a leased facility or partner-owned facility, via agreement, for park operations



## Jointly Managed Partnership Parks

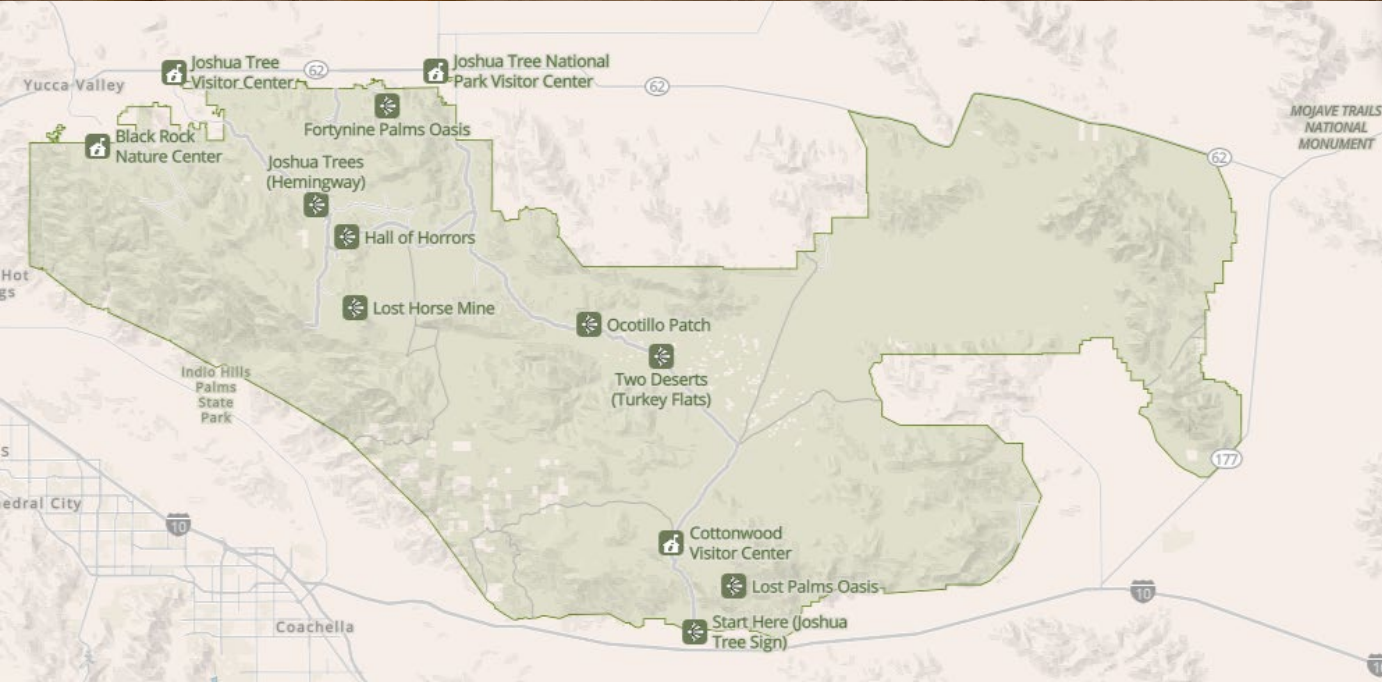
- NPS and an authorized partner(s) share responsibilities for ownership, management, maintenance, and/or operations via formal agreements
- Varies by park unit



# NPS ownership and management

## Joshua Tree National Park: Example of 100% NPS ownership and management

- NPS owns and manages 772,676 acres and all the natural and cultural resources, facilities and infrastructure within
- The park's legislated boundary includes 19,834 acres of nonfederal lands not managed by NPS
- Park initially established as a national monument through Antiquities Act, then later expanded several times and redesignated "national park" by Congress





# Jointly Managed Partnership Parks

## Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve

Example of partial NPS ownership and management

- A “**jointly managed partnership park**” is a common term for a National Park System unit where a partnering entity owns or manages a significant portion of the land or property within the authorized park boundary through an agreement with the National Park Service.



Photo: *Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve in Coupeville, WA.*

# Jointly Managed Partnership Parks

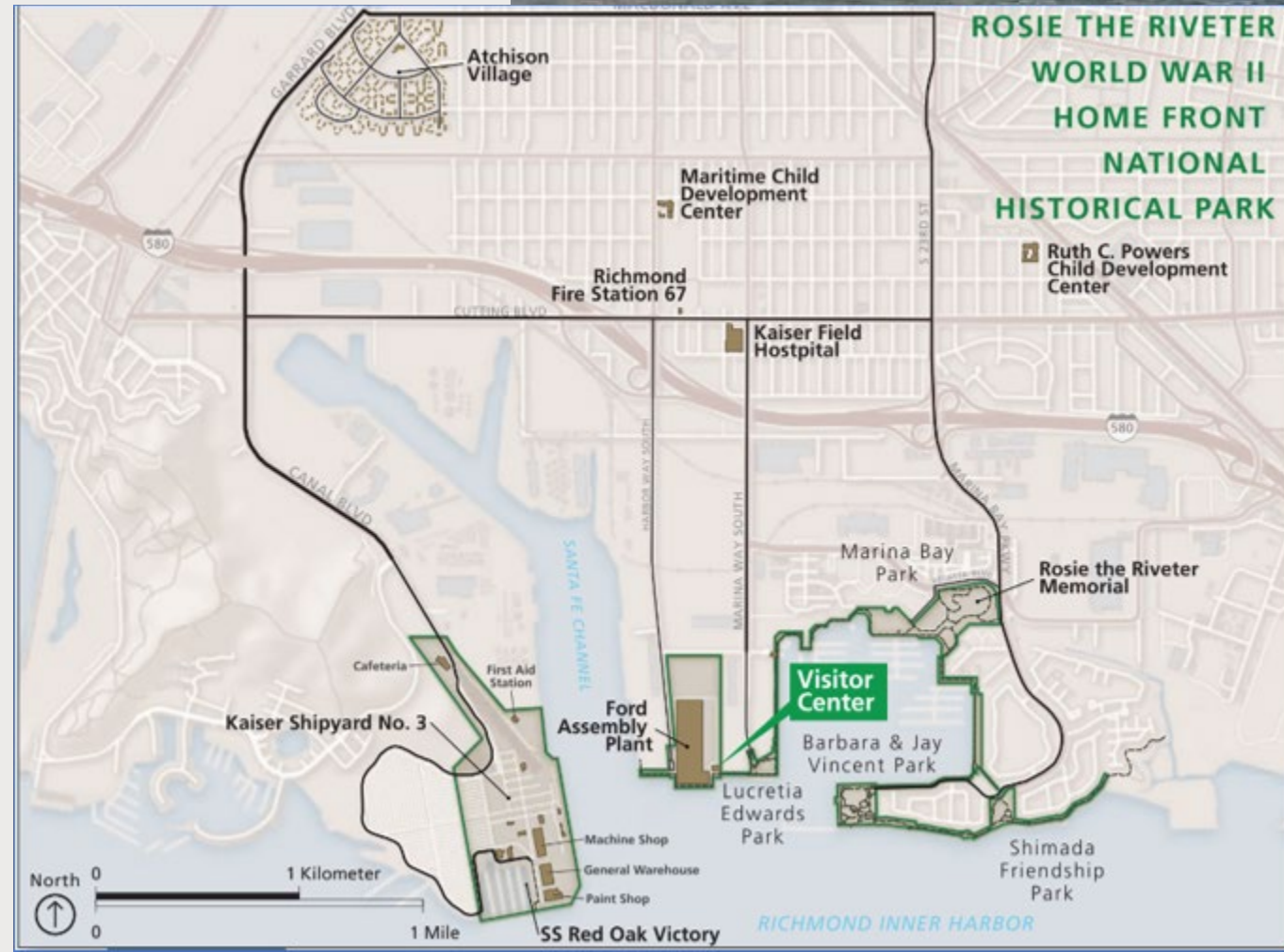
SS Red Oak Victory  
Richmond, CA



## Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park:

Example of no NPS ownership

- Park boundary includes a WWII-era factory, support facilities, housing, and a WWII-era cargo ship; park interprets the WWII homefront effort nationwide.
- NPS owns no property.
- NPS cooperates with and provides technical assistance to owners of historic resources (individuals, organizations, businesses), nonprofit organizations that support the park's mission, and local, city, and regional, governmental entities.





# Estimated Study Timeline

Projected Time Frame	Phase
2025	Data gathering
<b>Now</b>	<b>Public engagement</b>
Spring 2026	Analysis of public comments
Spring - Fall 2026	Analysis of the four criteria and preparation of the study report
Early 2027	Finalize study findings
TBD – Study transmitted to Congress	
Study will be made publicly available after congressional submission. There is no specific timeline for transmittal to Congress.	



# We Want Your Feedback

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1. What are the nationally significant **cultural resources** in the study area that should be managed and protected by the National Park Service?
2. What are the nationally significant **natural resources** in the study area that should be managed and protected by the National Park Service?
3. What **role**, if any, would you like the National Park Service to serve in the management of resources in the study area?
4. What **concerns** do you have that the National Park Service should be aware of and/or address in the study process?
5. Do you have other comments you would like to share with us?



# Ways to Submit Feedback

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- 1 – Enter your **comments** directly on the project website:  
**[parkplanning.nps.gov/LosAngelesCoastal](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/LosAngelesCoastal)**  
Click the “Open for Comment” link to respond.



- 2 – Mail option:  
National Park Service  
Denver Service Center  
Attn: Los Angeles Coastal SRS  
One Denver Federal Center, Building 50  
Denver, CO 80225

Open comment period is **February 5 – April 6, 2026**



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- [Project Home](#)
- [Plan Process](#)
- [Meeting Notices](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Document List](#)
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[Project Home](#)

[Plan Process](#)

[Meeting Notices](#)

[Links](#)

[Document List](#)

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## Documents Open For Comment

[Denver Service Center](#) » [Los Angeles Coastal Area Special Resource Study](#) » [Open for Comment](#)

The following Documents are currently open for comment.

Select a document to review and comment:

 [February 2026 Newsletter](#)



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Comment period closes  
**Apr 6, 2026**

at 11:59 PM Mountain Time in  
55 Days, 10 Hours, 59 Min.

[Denver Service Center](#) » [Los Angeles Coastal Area Special Resource Study](#) » [Document List](#) »  
[Document Contents](#)

## February 2026 Newsletter

This newsletter describes the Los Angeles Coastal Area Special Resource Study, the study process, and includes topic questions for public feedback. After reviewing this newsletter, click the "Comment Now" button below to enter your feedback.

Your thoughts and ideas are important to us. Thank you for your interest and participation!

[Comment Now »](#)

**Comment Period:** In Review Feb 5, 2026 - Apr 6, 2026

*Comment period closes **Apr 6, 2026** at 11:59 PM Mountain Time in:  
**55 Days, 10 Hours, 59 Min.***

### Topic Questions:

1. What are the nationally significant cultural resources in the study area that should be managed and protected by the National Park Service?



**PROJECT LINKS**

- Project Home
- Plan Process
- Meeting Notices
- Links
- Document List
- Open For Comment (1)
- Print Form

Comment period closes **Apr 6, 2026**  
at 11:59 PM Mountain Time in  
55 Days, 10 Hours, 58 Min.

## Submit Comments

We welcome your comments on this document: [February 2026 Newsletter](#)

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**55 Days, 10 Hours, 58 Min.***

Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personally identifiable information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personally identifiable information) may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us to withhold your personally identifiable information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Comment Form** bold\* indicates required fields

Country:	<input type="text" value="United States of America"/>
<b>City:*</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>State/Territory:*</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Postal Code:*</b>	<input type="text"/>
First Name:	<input type="text"/>
Middle Initial:	<input type="text"/>
Last Name:	<input type="text"/>
Organization:	<input type="text"/>
Address 1:	<input type="text"/>



***Thank you for your interest in this study!***

# Instructions for this virtual meeting

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View or hide Q&A

Ask a question

Need help? Leave

Live event Q&A

Featured My questions Most recent

No featured questions yet

Ask a question



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Or, by mail to:

National Park Service

Denver Service Center

Attn: Los Angeles Coastal SRS

One Denver Federal Center, Building 50

Denver, CO 80225

Point of contact for questions: [Sarah\\_Bodo@nps.gov](mailto:Sarah_Bodo@nps.gov)

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