Coal Oil Point: Ranching, Restoration, and their Effects

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Introduction

Humans and land are entwined in each other's history in such a way that it can be almost impossible to remove humans from the history of an environment or vice versa. A piece of land can provide historians with a deeper understanding into who the people who owned the land were and what they valued and saw as important. When we look at the history of land in California we see that there is a long history of ranching and agriculture in California that first began with its introduction in the 18th century by Spanish explorers.[1] These practices continue until the present day although these practices are not as common today as they once were previously. Their effects however continue to remain evident in the land. This is evident in the land now known as Coal Oil Point or Devereux Point. Ranching and agriculture were established on the land in the 19th century and continued with the Campbell family being the last family to practice these on this land.

The Campbells arrived during a period in the 1900s in which many affluent families began to move to the Montecito and Santa Barbara area because the large parcels of land available were perfect for them to build large estates and live in not only physical but social luxury as well. Members of prominent families such as Stanley McCormick from the McCormicks of Chicago and George Knapp, a wealthy industrialist moved to the area prior to the Campbells moving.[2] The Campbells, conversely, decided not to buy land in Montecito instead they purchased 500 acres of land that had previously been part of Rancho Dos Pueblos. This piece of land is now known as Coal Oil Point.

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[1] John Ryan Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism: An Environmental History of the Conquest of California and Hawai'i* (The University of North Carolina Press: Chapel Hill, 2015), 36.
[2] Anita Guerrini, "The Story of the Campbells: From Montecito to Goleta and Back," *Montecito Magazine*, January 2010.

The Land and Ranching

It is important to recognize that before the land now known as Coal Oil Point was "owned", in the traditional sense of the word, by European or American colonizers it was still used by the native people of the area, the Chumash. The Chumash called the vicinity of Coal Oil Point, P'ok'oy.[3] This parcel of land has a long history of ranching. When Europeans first arrived and were in search of land to settle one of their main concerns was that the land had to be good for ranching and agriculture. Since the arrival of the Spanish in 1776 ranching and agriculture quickly became an integral part of California.[4] In 1821 as a direct result of the Mexican War of Independence what is now known as California fell under Mexican rule.[5] During this period the Mexican government gave out land grants in an attempt to attract people to a land they saw as deserted and to make it "more civilized".

In this context Nicholas Den, an Irish immigrant, was able to acquire land. While he was working on a Boston trading vessel in 1836 he fell in love with Goleta and decided to make it his home. To acquire a land grant there were certain requirements he had to fulfill: he had to learn Spanish, marry a local girl, and become a Mexican citizen to prove to Mexico that he would remain there and take care of the land.[6] In 1846, Nicholas Den was awarded the Dos Pueblos

[3] Tom Modugno, "Coal Oil Point, Campbell Ranch and Devereux School," *Goleta History*, November 21, 2020.
[4] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 24.
[5] Modugno, "Coal Oil Point."
[6] Modugno, "Coal Oil Point."

Land Grant which spans from El Capitan to Fairview Avenue and encompasses Coal Oil Point (see figure 1). Den became a ranchero and used most of the land as grazing land for his cattle. However, the mesa that makes up Coal Oil Point remained covered by oak groves. After Den died, the ranch was meant to be split amongst his 10 children however in a tragic turn of events after a drought period killed most of their cattle they had not choice but to sell off parts of their land. In the 1970s, the Den family lawyers, Charles Huse, illegally leases part of Coal Oil Point to the More brothers who cut down the oak forest for firewood.[7] They harvested around 1,000 cords of lumber and left the land irreparably damaged and barren. In 1913, the Cavalletto brothers bought 200 acres of COP for farming. In 1919, Colonel Colin Campbell, a retired English army officer, and his wife, Nancy Campbell nee Leiter, a wealthy heiress, decided to move to the United States from England.[8] In 1920, the Campbells officially moved their entire household from Kent to the Bonnymede Estate while their own estate was constructed. After both Colonel Colin and Nancy Campbell passed away their son Colin Campbell Jr. sold the land to Helena Devereux, who opened a western branch of her school for people with mental disabilities. Then in 1967, the

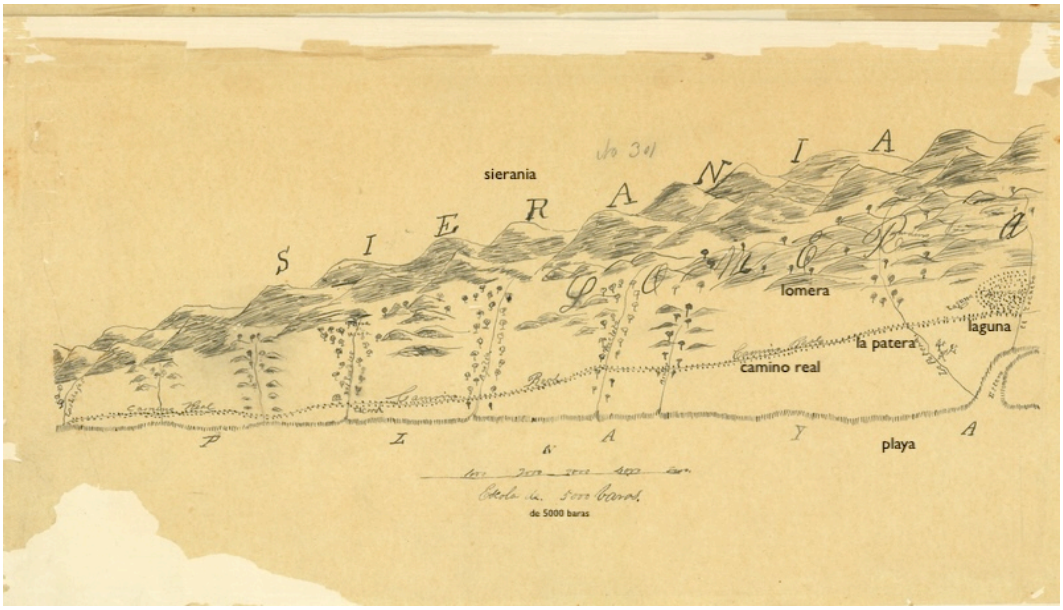

Figure 1. "Diseño del Rancho Dos Pueblos, California [1842]", Courtesy of Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley.

[7] Modugno, "Coal Oil Point."
[8] Modugno, "Coal Oil Point."

University of California at Santa Barbara bought most of the land not used by the school. In 1970, Coal Oil Point became part of the National Reserve System in 2001 restoration efforts of fauna and flora began.[9]

Research Questions and Sources

In this project, I seek to explore how the concept of land stewardship changes over time specifically on the land of Coal Oil Point. In doing so, I will focus specifically on the Campbell family and their interactions with the land and then how these interactions change with the establishment of the Coal Oil Point Reserve. In doing so I will answer the questions:

1. Who were the Campbells?
2. How and what change did they effect on the land?
3. How do the Campbells fit into the overarching picture of ranching in California?
4. What is the role natural reserves play in nature and in the concept of what is "natural"?

In order to answer these questions, I will mainly look at archival works like land deeds, photographs, diaries, among others. The research is heavily focused on collecting information from primary and secondary resources to construct a narrative of what the Campbells did since they arrived in Santa Barbara and why. For this, I will look at books about the UC nature reserve system and the history of the Dos Pueblos Land. In addition, I will look at articles that talk about restoration methods that have been implemented from the late 1990s onward by the Coal Oil Point Reserve. To analyze what the Campbells did and their impact I will look at Special

[9] Modugno, "Coal Oil Point."

Research Collections held at the Davidson Library at UCSB. Special Collections holds primary sources like maps and deeds to the lands bought by Colin Campbell and agreements between him and neighboring owners about construction. I will also examine maps recorded by the Office of the County Recorder of Santa Barbara County that look at the land limits of each of the neighboring lands. Furthermore, I will analyze and include photographs held at the archives at Gledhill Library by the Santa Barbara Historical Museum of the Campbell family and of the ranch itself.

In doing so I seek to explore the historical gap surrounding the Campbells and Coal Oil Point. There is a lot of research and articles that focus on the environmental aspect of how humans in general impact animals like the Western Snowy Plovers. Nevertheless, there is not a lot of research on the history of Coal Oil Point and how the Campbells in specific changed the land. I will analyze what the Campbells decided on what to build on their land and what to actions they took to change the landscape. Furthermore, I will look at what restoration efforts have been implemented to reverse these changes and how effective these have been. I will focus on the period of the house's construction and how Colonel Campbell's desires influenced the plans even posthumously. I want to see what influenced the family in the designing and construction of their ranch and how these desires caused them to change their environment. I am interested in seeing what facilities make up the Campbell Ranch and what they were used for. Overall, I am interested in seeing how the environment has been affected as a whole and how conservation and restoration efforts come in contact with the land. In doing so I will contend with questions like what "natural" means, whether it is possible to restore an environment, and who gets to decide what this means. Furthermore, I will look at how effective restoration efforts have been at restoring the land. Since the Campbells wanted to build a lavish estate and working

ranch they had to remove a lot of native fauna and instead planted invasive species like Eucalyptus trees which absorb large quantities of water. This in turn affects surrounding bodies of water and native vegetation. As such, ecological restoration efforts attempt to restore the vegetation to its state before European disturbances.

Historiography

In regard to the Campbells there is not a lot of literature that focus on who they were. However, we can take a look at literature that focus on a common pattern of affluent people moving to the west. This was based off of an idealized picture of ranching. Lawrence Culver touches on this in his book *The Frontier of Leisure: Southern California and the Shaping of Modern America*, where he touches on how a lot of literature in the 1900s "echoed the powerful lure of the Californio rancho fantasy, of leisure and complete independence."[10] This idealization caused Southern California to be referred to as a "chosen country", which refers back to the notion that a lot of the people that relocated there chose to do so and "had resources to do so."[11] During this time period there was also a birth of California as a hub for healthy living and almost as a cure for any and all ailments. Focusing on nature and the importance of sunlight during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries this became a haven for 'proto-hippies' as illustrated by Lyra Kilston in their book *Sun Seekers: The Cure of California*.[12]

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[10] Lawrence Culver, *The Frontier of Leisure: Southern California and the Shaping of Modern America* (Oxford University Press, 2010), 218.
[11] Culver, *The Frontier of Leisure*, 217.
[12] Erin Blakemore, "California has a long history for being a sunny haven for health and wellness fads: In 'Sun Seekers- The Cure of California,' author Lyra Kilston tells the story of the states's self-identification with such trends," *The Washington Post,* March 29, 2019, *https://www.proquest.com/blogs-podcasts-websites/california-has-long-history-beingsunny-haven/docview/2200541577/se-2?accountid=14522.*

The Campbells fit into this narrative in that they were lured by a romanticized idea of Southern California and had the sufficient resources to do so and to transplant their lifestyle with them. There have been some historians who have focused on the history of the land starting with the Chumash. They however have glanced over Coal Oil Point specifically and have either compiled a history of the Dos Pueblos Ranch as done by Walker A. Tompkins in his book *Santa Barbara's Royal Rancho.* On the other hand, historians like Anita Guerrini have briefly looked into the social aspect of the Campbell families' lives.[13] As such when we look at history from this narrative how the environment was affected is omitted. Not only that but it also fails to consider who the Campbells were at their core and what influenced them as individuals looking to create a copy of the life they had enjoyed in England. Similarly, historian Tom Modugno has focused his research closely on the land, what was built on it, how and when it changed owners and such omitting things in a similar manner.[14]

When looking at recent research that has been conducted surrounding Coal Oil Point many of the focal points have been the restoration of fauna such as the Western Snowy Plovers or the restoration of native flora into the environment. Biologists such as Kevin D. Lafferty and Cris Sandoval have suggested that humans have a huge impact on the environment throughout their research and observations particularly on the Western Snowy Plover.[15] William R. Jordan, founding editor for the journal "Ecological Restoration" presents and likens the idea of restoration to performative arts. In doing so Jordan brings attention to a topic that had previously received little attention. Following the rise in attention on ecological restoration and conservation The Society for Ecological Restoration, a nonprofit organization with a mission to promote

[13] Guerrini, "The Story of the Campbells."
[14] Modugno, "Coal Oil Point."
[15] Kevin Lafferty, "Disturbance to Wintering Western Snowy Plovers," *Biological Conservation* 101, no. 3 (October 2010), 315.

ecological restoration, came out with a handbook *Ecological Restoration: Principles, Values, and Structure of an Emerging Profession* to discuss what restoration is and what it seeks to do.[16] Megan Raby, a historian of science, introduces the concept of reserves as arks or archives of nature while analyzing how this concept emerges on the Barro Colorado Island in Panama.[17]

By putting together all of these points of view and narratives established previously and by looking at archives it is possible to fill in the historical gap surrounding the Campbells and Coal Oil Point in order to gain a deeper understanding not only of what they did but also of what influenced them and how this as a result led to environmental changes. Succinctly, by looking at these changes it is possible to explore how effective recent restoration efforts led by the National Reserve System have been and how ideas of land stewardship not only interact with each other but continue to evolve.

Roadmap and Thesis

The purpose of this thesis is to primarily analyze how ideas about land stewardship, ecological restoration, and history can intersect by looking specifically at Coal Oil Point. In doing so it will argue that the land presently known as Coal Oil Point underwent many ecological changes at the hands of ranchers like the Campbell family. By taking a look at the actions done by the Campbell family and afterward by the reserve, this paper contends with the complex idea of what "natural" in nature can come to mean. will follow a chronological pattern looking briefly into the history of shows how ranching ecologically affected the land known as Coal Oil Point at

[16] Andre F. Clewell and James Aronson, *Ecological Restoration: Principles, Values, and Structure of an Emerging Profession* (Island Press Washington, 2013), 15.
[17] Megan Raby, "Ark and Archive: Making a Place for Long-Term Research on Barro Colorado Island, Panama," *Isis* 106, no. 4 (December 2015): 798.

the hands of ranchers like the Campbell family. It will also contend with ideas of restoration and conservation that are at the basis of the Natural Reserve System.

Chapter One will begin by looking at the role ranching played in California. This will look at how cattle culture began with Spanish explorers and the value they placed and displayed onto cattle and agriculture. This section will also go on to discuss how ranching culture was able to keep a strong hold over many areas of California. This section will then go on to analyze the ways in which ranching affected the environment. The next section will then move on into a discussion about who the Campbells were. This will be done by looking at a brief history of who they were before their arrival to California. This chapter will conclude with a description of what changes the Campbells made to the environment through ranching, ranching, agriculture, and building developments.

The second chapter will then begin by discussing the motivations for the creation of the Natural Reserve System. This will be achieved by looking at the factors that impulse the creation of the National Reserve System. Then the chapter will move on to discussing the creation of the Coal Oil Point Reserve and how this came to be. It will then move on to discuss the efforts made towards land restoration and conservation that have occurred since the late 1990s. In this section, I will mainly contend with ideas of ecological restoration and the idea of "natural."

This paper will conclude by discussing future projects involving Coal Oil Point and the Campbell estate that are in the talks. This will serve in concluding the paper by discussing how the history of land will continue to involve and the way in which the land is interconnected with humans will remain connected together.

Chapter 1: Cattle and Leisure

A founding aspect in California history has been the big ranching practice. Ranching and agriculture as a practice in California goes back to the arrival of the Spanish in the eighteenth century. This has created a deep-lasting cattle culture that continues to persist until the present day although urbanization has led to a decrease in ranches. European explorers found cattle to be vital in providing reliable supplies while also serving to transform the new environment and people they encountered. In doing so they "disregarded or encouraged the ecological and cultural ramifications of their actions" effectively completely changing the environment to fit their needs and in doing so also affecting the lives of native people.[18]

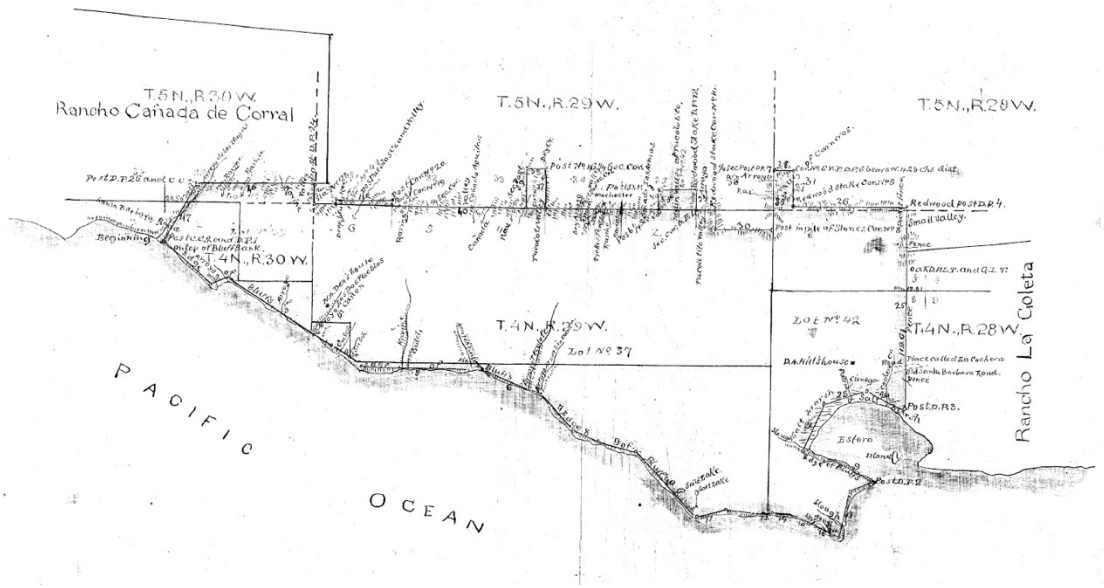

Figure 2. Plat of Rancho Dos Pueblos, Courtesy of County of Santa Barbara.

The prevalence of cattle culture is so great that it also influenced the Campbell family in the early 1900's and surrounding ranching families in the Santa Barbara area evident in the Plat of the Rancho Dos Pueblos as recorded by the U.S. Surveyor General and archived by the

[18] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism,* 36.

County of Santa Barbara that shows the numerous ranchos around the Rancho Dos Pueblos which encompasses the Campbell Ranch (see figure 2). Furthermore, the connection between the early establishment of cattle culture and ranches with the Campbell ranch in particular is demonstrative of how changes to the environment and or the additions to the native flora and or fauna have immeasurable ecological ramifications. As such even though the Campbell family only actively used the land for around a decade the changes they enacted had long-lasting effects on the environment.

Historiography

Ranching's large cultural and environmental aspect has warranted historians to look at it as a method used first by European explorers and then by Manifest Destiny-inspired American settlers as a method of colonialism. Historian John Ryan Fischer looked at the environmental history of cattle and ranching on the land of California and Hawaii and the cultural impact it had.[19] Economic historian Ricardo D. Salvatore on the other hand analyzes the types of methods ranchos in California employed as opposed to ranchos in Southern Brazil and Argentina.[20] Few historians have focused on the history of the land starting with the Chumash. They however have glanced over Coal Oil Point specifically and have rather compiled a history of the Dos Pueblos Ranch or Santa Barbara as a whole. Historians like Anita Guerrini have focused their work on the social aspect of the Campbell families' lives.[21] As such this omits information of what exactly the Campbells did to change the land to fit their needs. Similarly, historian Tom

[19] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 24.
[20] Ricardo D. Salvatore, "Modes of Labor Control in Cattle-Ranching Economies: California, Southern Brazil, and Argentina, 1820-1860," *The Journal of Economic History* 51, no. 2 (1991): 441-451.
[21] Guerrini, "The Story of the Campbells."

Modugno focused his research closely on the land, what was built on it, and how and when it changed owners.[22] In a very similar but different way, this work omits the social side of the Campbells' and does not look into who they were and what drove them as individuals. By putting together all of these points of view and narratives established previously and by looking at archives it is possible to fill in the historical gap surrounding the Campbells and to gain a deeper understanding not only of what they did but also of what influenced them and how this as a result led to environmental changes.

Cattle Culture and Colonialism

Ranching as an institution was established across the West Coast firstly by the Mexican government as a means of civilizing. The importance of cattle in the foundation of new settlements along the West Coast by the Spanish is evident by the importance placed on them by Juan Bautista de Anza's party as they founded a new settlement on the San Francisco Bay. Anza's expedition "depended on and stimulated the expansion of old-world organisms", referring to the cattle.[23] This sentiment is evident by how "a large herd of cattle accompanied Anza's party" and how they were seen as crucial to the expedition's success.[24] As such, cattle were seen as having great importance towards "settling Alta California" and "remained paramount throughout the journey."[25] This idea is further exemplified by the influence it had in the choosing of land. An example of this is on March 11, 1776, when de Anza's party reached the mission of San Carlos de Carmelo near Monterrey. De Anza then traveled further north with

[22] Modugno, "Coal Oil Point."
[23] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 24.
[24] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 24.
[25] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 25.

a small party to create a new settlement on the San Francisco Bay. In Pedro Font's diary, who was part of the party, describes that among the factors they would take into consideration was that the land was good ranching land. On March 27, Font described one of the possible settlement sites as having "abundant pasturage, plenty of firewood, and fine water."[26] The next day they established the pueblo *Yerba Buena*, in honor of the abundant yerba Buena herb that grew there.[27]

Ranching had a huge impact on the varied biodiversity of California. California has a "notable biodiversity and unique endemic species."[28] Furthermore, it boasts of 6,300 native plant species and a third of that amount cannot be grown anywhere else. In the late 18th and early nineteenth centuries, it was California's environmental diversity that was emphasized by many of its visitors. Charles Wilkes, an explorer, remade that there is perhaps "no other country where there is such diversity of features, soil, and climate as California."[29] Traditionally, agriculture was not incredibly common among native people. Only the Yuma in the South near Arizona's present-day border practiced agriculture.[30] They would grow corn, beans, and squash. This contrasts how most native people throughout the rest of California were semi-sedentary hunter-gatherers who relied on the region's natural diverse resources. The Chumash from the Santa Barbara area and the Channel Islands relied on sea creatures so much so that they grew rich from them and this as a result impacted their type of society design in that they developed a hierarchical society. Outside of this regional resource, the men would hunt game while the women would gather fruits, nuts, and vegetables.[31] Native people relied on noticing seasonal

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[26] Pedro Font, *Font's Complete Diary* (University of California Press, 1933), 332.
[27] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 29-30.
[28] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 39.
[29] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 40.
[30] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 41.
[31] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 42.

cues and paid attention to what environmental conditions certain plants and animals thrived in and "sought to promote these conditions when possible."[32] The introduction of new plants and animals however caused delicate balances in nature between native people in the land soon became strained.[33]

Agriculture and ranching had an impact on both the native people and the environment. Elinor Melville analyzed in a study the role of sheep in the dispossession and destruction of Indians in central Mexico and stated, "sheep did not simply replace men, however, although that was the outcome; rather they displaced them - ate them, as the saying goes."[34] As such she found that sheep overran native lands and destroyed their natural resources leaving them "out of house and home."[35] Following this finding California mission historians have brought up the possibility that as European explorers moved north what happened in Mexico was a process repeated wherever they went. These animals brought a myriad of ecological changes and took a toll on local limited resources. Surprisingly, it was not only the animals that had an effect on the environment, but the environment also had a big effect on the animals. In the mid-nineteenth century, Walter Colton, an American who lived in Monterey noted that the California environment had a fertile effect on the animals noting "one litter of pigs follows another so fast that squealers and grunters are often confounded."[36] As such, the number of animals grew rapidly which meant that the cattle began to need more territory to roam and feed, and as a result, the local natives were forced into the missions. In comparison to native animals cattle travel in large herds and graze on more plants while moving less which means that they end up

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[32] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 43.
[33] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 43.
[34] Elinor Melvile, *A plague of sheep: environmental consequences of the conquest of Mexico* (Cambridge University Press, 1994), 39-40.
[35] Melville, *A plague of sheep*, 40.
[36] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 44.

concentrating damage in small areas. Furthermore, cattle brought invasive species with them. By the mid-nineteenth century, wild oats (*Avena fatua*) took over California, arriving along with hay for the cattle.[37] The cows served to spread the seeds and their close grazing of grasses allowed for invasive or weedy species to grow like black mustard or amaranthus. Historical ecologists believe that before the arrival of cattle, the California landscape consisted of mainly perennial bunchgrasses like needlegrass.[38] Another large factor that impacted the environment was the significant loss of the native population mainly from facing severe epidemics. This loss is made evident in English explorer William Beechey noting that a third to two-thirds of those gained at the missions through baptism were lost through deaths every year.[39] It is noteworthy that "diseases and ecological change destabilized native communities" and these losses were taken advantage of by the missions to try and gain people.[40]

Although at the start ranches were an enterprise led by missions, the mission system began to decline in the 1830s as independent ranchos began to flourish. In the 1840s, many foreigners gained land grants and established cattle ranches.[41] In this context in 1846, the Dos Pueblos Land Grant was awarded to Irish migrant Nicholas Den.[42] This land grant covered land from El Capital to Fairview Avenue. Following the ranching legacy, Nicholas Den mostly only used the land to graze his cattle.[43] After Nicholas Den died the Dos Pueblos Ranch was split between all ten of his children. However, due to financial struggles after a drought killed a lot of their cattle, they had to sell their land. Previously the entire mesa had been covered by dense oak

[37] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 48.
[38] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 47.
[39] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 50.
[40] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 48.
[41] Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism*, 139.
[42] Modugno, "Coal Oil Point."
[43] Modugno, "Coal Oil Point."

groves but after it was loaned 1,000 cords of lumber were harvested for firewood for the whaling station at Goleta Beach. This effectively left the land "damaged and barren."[44] Then in 1913, the Cavalleto brothers bought the land and began farming on it. Then in 1919, Colonel Colin Campbell and his wife Nancy Campbell decided to move from England to Santa Barbara. In essence, ranching culture holds a deep and long history in California as an enterprise first introduced by European explorers and then continued by missions not only as an economic practice but also as a way to get native people into the missions as the livestock pushed them out of their lands through loss of land and of resources they used to sustain themselves.

Campbell Family

Nancy Leiter was the daughter of Levi Zeigler Leiter from Chicago, a founding partner of the Marshall Field's department store and owner of a large part of Chicago's commercial real estate.[45] When Levi Leiter died in 1904, his son and three daughters inherited millions. In 1900, Colonel Campbell and Miss Leiter met in India and became engaged and wed in 1904.[46] Colonel Colin Campbell was a Scottish aristocrat and was rich in his own right.[47] While living in Chicago, Nancy Leiter was a prominent part of social life in the city. After they married in 1904, the Campbells traveled to Europe and back aboard the Mauretania and the Lusitania. Then during World War I, they settled in England as Colonel Campbell served in the military once again. In 1919, the Campbells decided to move from England to the United States as after the

[44] Modugno, "Coal Oil Point."
[45] Michael Redmon, "Devereux Point: Former Estate of the Colin Campbell Family," *Santa Barbara Independent*, September 05, 2014.
[46] "HERE TO WED MISS LEITER," *Chicago Daily Tribune,* November 27, 1904.
[47] Redmon, "Devereux Point."

war a new surtax was placed on their American income.[48] Then in the 1920s, the Campbells officially moved their household from Kent to Montecito and resided along with their household at the Bonnymede Estate while their estate was constructed. Before looking at Colonel Colin Campbell and how he and his family's architectural choices affected the land currently known as Coal Oil Point it is important to look at the records of land ownership.

A collection of land deeds has helped piece together Colonel Colin Campbell's journey in purchasing land that had previously been part of the Dos Ranchos Ranch. According to the deeds Colonel Campbell's first purchase was on the sixteenth of December of 1919 between him and George Gould. In this purchase, he acquired around 101.71 acres of land.[49] The second purchase occurred on June 1st, 1920, between Joseph F. Sexton and Colonel Campbell. This deed was witnessed by Harry Ross as the Notary Public and Mark Bradley as the County Recorder. The deed stipulates that Colonel Campbell bought all "real property situated in the Rancho Dos Pueblos."[50] This deed also describes the boundaries of the land sold by naming other ranches bordering the Sexton's ranch.[51] This shows how the land was distributed and details who owned the land around it and what it was used for. Overall, this demonstrates that the land that had once been part of the Dos Pueblos Grant might have been used to graze animals or for agricultural purposes. This points to the fact that perhaps the Coal Oil Point Land was also occupied as grazing land or for agricultural purposes. The next deed in the collection is a transaction between Colonel Campbell and C.A. Storke for $150 from July 9th, 1920. One of the deeds is a record of Colonel Campbell paying C.A. Storke $150 for "right of way for road purposes", installation of

[48] Guerrini, "The Story of the Campbells."
[49] Deeds 181/3, December 22, 1919, Box 5, Facilities Management Office Collection, UCSB Special Research Collections, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA.
[50] Deeds 181/451, June 1, 1920, Box 5, Facilities Management Office Collection, UCSB Special Research Collections, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA.
[51] Deeds 181/451, Facilities Management Office Collection.

pipelines, poles for conveying electricity, and power and telephone lines. [52]The note attached to this deed details that the right of way would be in perpetuity demonstrating that the Campbells had long-term plans for the ranch and their estate. The last deed from 1920 is from November 1st between Henry P. Balloon and Colonel Campbell. This was a purchase of around 251.5 acres of land that shares a boundary with Susana Den's land.[53] These deeds are useful in that they list the deeds of other landowners as reference which makes it easier to go back and check when they purchased their land and what they did with it.

On February 9, 1921, Campbell purchased more land from George Gould for $790. Although this deed does not enumerate the amount of land sold it does explain the boundaries of the land sold.[54] The last deed is from May 14, 1921, between Colonel Campbell and the Thomas B. Bishop Company. From this deed, Colonel Campbell purchased all of the land owned by the Thomas B. Bishop Company that was part of the Dos Pueblos Grant.[55] Even after Colonel Campbell's death, Nancy Campbell continued acquiring land that had previously been part of the Dos Pueblos Land Grant. On the twenty-seventh of February of 1924, Nancy Leiter purchased around 24.5 acres of land from Warren D. Moore and his wife, Lucy Taylor More.[56] This deed provides information about another deed in which Colonel Campbell bought land bordering Warren Moore's land from J.D. Cavalletto in 1919 and is recorded in Book 175 of Deeds on page 438. Because these official records refer to other records kept by the County of Santa

[52] Deeds 181/451, Facilities Management Office Collection.
[53] Deeds 185, November 1, 1920, Box 5, Facilities Management Office Collection, UCSB Special Research Collections, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA.
[54] Deeds 185/255, February 9, 1921, Box 5, Facilities Management Office Collection, UCSB Special Research Collections, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA
[55] Deeds 199/77, May 14, 1921, Box 5, Facilities Management Office Collection, UCSB Special Research Collections, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA.
[56] Official Records 1/379, February 27, 1924, Box 5, Facilities Management Office Collection, UCSB Special Research Collections, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA.

Barbara it does facilitate cross-referencing and keeping a record of the rate at which the Campbells expanded their ownership of Dos Pueblos Land.

The final scans are of a map detailing the Storke Ranch which as shown by the map shared a border with Colonel Campbell's land.[57] This map was drawn so that the County Recorder of Santa Barbara would have records of the dimensions of the land and the coordinates in case any legal issues arose. The map shows the calculations of Storke Ranch's dimensions and what each boundary faced. According to this map, Colonel Campbell's ranch was along the Western boundary of Storke Ranch and along the Northern Ranch there was Hog Ranch. Then along the Eastern Boundary, there was the county road. Maps like this are useful in that they provide a clearer understanding of how the land was divided and provide insight into how meticulous the County was at keeping records.

In 1921, Colonel Campbell hired James Osborne Craig for his architectural services to build a large house. Tragically however Colonel Campbell died in 1922 and James Craig died in 1923.[58] Succinctly, James Craig's wife, Mary McLaughlin Craig, took on the job of designing and building the house. This was Mary Craig's first major project and became the first female architect. Mary Craig designed a U-shaped house meant to be built out of adobe blocks. She set the main entry to face the southwest corner based on the surrounding environment to take advantage of the view overlooking the slough and the ocean.[59] The reception room, dining room, and living room were positioned facing south. Due to the large number of staff like maids, cooks, and manservants, among many others, they also created separate housing for them. With this vast

[57] Map "Plat Showing Property of C.A. Stroke In Rancho Dos Pueblos", Book 24, Page 549, Office of Deeds, Box 5, Facilities Management Office Collection, UCSB Special Research Collections, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA.
[58] "Architectural History Hidden In Plain Sight," *AD&A MUSEUM,* May 12, 2021.
[59] "Architectural History Hidden In Plain Sight."

amount of land, they had a two-story, Spanish-Colonial revival house built, along with a blacksmith shop, tennis courts, a private lake, elaborate picnic grounds, and a large barn.[60] After Nancy Campbell and Mary Craig spent so much time together they grew close to each other, and the Leiter family ended up becoming vital to Mary's career as an architect.

Thanks to the Gledhill Library's extensive archives housed at the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, I have gained access to multiple pictures of the house, buildings, and of some of the agricultural and ranching changes.

Figure 3. "January 1923, Campbell's Beach House, Campbell Ranch", PA 24, Courtesy of Santa Barbara Historical Museum

In addition, the construction at the bottom of the bluffs that is commonly known as the "Jail House" by locals was actually a beach house. An example of the photographs that can be found at the Gledhill Library is figure 3 in which the Campbell Beach House was photographed and shows Colonel Campbell and his son with their friends enjoying a day out by the beach. Another addition was when Colonel Campbell dredged the Devereux slough to make a yacht harbor.[61]

The vast luxury incorporated into the home allowed Nancy Campbell to continue with the social life she was accustomed to. One of her parties in 1926 was attended by the then Prince George of England who later became King George VI.[62] The level of luxury enjoyed by the

[60] Redmon, "Devereux Point."
[61] Guerrini, "The Story of the Campbells."
[62] Redmon, "Devereux Point."

Campbell family is evident in an August 1924 article by the Los Angeles Times. In this article, it is recorded that a tiger skin from India, seventeenth-century Persian rugs, and over 100 pieces of furniture valued at $500,000 entered San Pedro harbor on their wall to Campbell Ranch from Britain.[63] Vans also delivered antique furniture, Persian rugs, exotic animal skins, fine art, linen, silver, and crystal. Regardless of their luxurious manner of living, in an interview with Jean McDermott Ferguson, the daughter of the estate manager, she recalled Nancy Campbell's giving nature and stated that "She was always good to the employees."[64]

There however came problems with the Leiter family after Nancy Campbell's brother, Joseph Leiter, the trustee of the estate, was sued for wealth mismanagement.[65] The trial began in May 1923 and both Nancy and Colin Campbell traveled to Chicago to attend the opening weeks. However, on their way back, Colonel Colin died of a heart attack on the train. In concurrence with his wishes, the colonel was buried on the ranch. The Celtic cross by the bluffs serves as the landmark to where he was buried although his body has been moved from Coal Oil Point. The Campbell Ranch was completed in the summer of 1924 Colonel Campbell was sadly unable to see it be completed. Six years later Nancy Campbell also died and was buried along with her husband by the bluffs.[66] In a 1941 auction, Colin Campbell Jr. sold most of the contents of the mansion. When Colin attempted to sell the mansion, he was unsuccessful as World War II had begun and it was "not a good time for selling large estates."[67] He however was able to see once

[63] Guerrini, "The Story of the Campbells."
[64] Guerrini, "The Story of the Campbells."
[65] "FORMER NANCY LEITER SUPPORTS HER BROTHER: Mrs. Campbell Says Appointment of Warr as Trustee Was for the Welfare of the Estate," *New York Times,* January 5, 1927.
[66] Guerrini, "The Story of the Campbells."
[67] Guerrini, "The Story of the Campbells."

the war ended in 1945 to Helena Devereux. He however sold the ranch at a much smaller amount than what it cost as he sold it for $100,000 when it cost $500,000 merely to build the mansion.[68]

The Campbells' past allowed them to be accustomed to a certain type of lifestyle. Therefore, when they moved to Goleta as they were creating their estate the commodities they had been accustomed to influenced many of their decisions from where they decided to buy land to what plants were added while landscaping, furthermore, they influenced the style of house they wanted and how they would go about making decisions in landscaping. Their house in particular is incredibly indicative of how affluent they were. This can be seen in that the value of the shipment recorded which arrived in August 1924 was valued at $500,000 and the house itself cost $500,000.[69] In addition, there is the possibility that this shipment was not the only shipment of materials that were on the way to the Campbell estate. Figure 4 shows all of the material possessions that decorated and furnished the Campbell estate and although it is difficult to calculate the cost of all of these objects it can be inferred that their value is high. However, the Campbell's span of control of their environment did not only span to the confines of their home but rather in compliance to what they believed it meant to be stewards

Figure 4. "Drawing Room", 200.412, Courtesy of Santa Barbara Historical Museum

[68] Guerrini, "The Story of the Campbells."
[69] Guerrini, "The Story of the Campbells."

or masters of their land their will also encompassed all of the land and environments that were a part of the land they had purchased.

Ranching and the Environment Practices

When the Campbells decided to move to the United States one of the main reasons for deciding to settle down in Goleta instead of Montecito was the large amounts of land they would be able to buy and transform to their hearts' desires. These changes can be seen in almost every aspect of the land and the environment through changes to the plants and or bodies of water which end up having an impact on the animals that see this place as their home.

The Campbells enjoyed living in opulence and designed their home to fit the lifestyle they were accustomed to. This level of importance translated into how they related to their outside environment. A major change to the environment was the addition of a landing strip so that their friends would be able to fly in whenever they wanted to.[70] Furthermore, they dredged the slough to have a yacht harbor (as shown in

Figure 5. "Colin Canoeing," PA 69, Courtesy of Santa Barbara Historical Museum

[70] Modugno, "Coal Oil Point."

figure 5).[71] There are photographs of Colin Campbell canoeing in the slough showing that not only was this change made on a whim but that they actually made use of it.

Figure 6. "Chickens and cow owned by Campbells," PA 69, Courtesy of Santa Barbara Historical Museum.

Colonel Campbell however was enchanted by the idea of leading a kind of ranching lifestyle and having a working ranch and had a hands-on approach to it. As such one of the buildings that was constructed was a barn.[72] This construction marks the importance of having horses for the Campbells. In this research, photographs play a big role in giving insight into the type of ranch they had and how they related to their environment. The images show that the Campbells had pigs, numerous chickens, horses, and cattle *(see figure 6)*. Although the photographs do not show large amounts of cattle it does show that they at least had some and as such they not only played a role in the history of cattle ranching in California, but they also had a

[71] Anita Guerrini, and Jenifer E. Dugan, "Informing Ecological Restoration in a Coastal Context," in *Restoration and History: The Search for a Usable Environmental Past*, ed. Marcus Hall (Routledge, 2010), 138.
[72] Guerrini, "The Story of the Campbells."

role in how the land is affected by cattle. Although it is fair to say that cattle ranching had occurred on the lands of Devereux Point for numerous decades prior to the Campbells as such their actions are not immediately changing the environment rather they were merely continuing a practice that had been happening previously.

Figure 7. "Some of Daddy's Planting", PA 69, Santa Barbara Historical Museum.

Another way in which the environment was affected was through the creation of windbreaks in the form of trees. Colonel Campbell was very involved in the details of planting eucalyptus and cypress trees as windbreaks so that his family and any guests could lounge outdoors without the inconvenience of the wind *(see figure 7)*. It is important to note that eucalyptus trees are not native to California and are an invasive species. Because they are not native to the environment, eucalyptus trees are prone to fire, compete with native plants, and are toxic to native animals.[73] Eucalyptus trees have an oily resin that is flammable and burns at a

[73] "Eucalyptus in California." Accessed January 27, 2024. https://ucanr.edu/sites/Igor/Mature_-_Historic_Tree_Stands/Eucalyptus_in_California.

higher intensity than other trees do. They can change the environment even more because during drought seasons they can tap into deep water reservoirs, and they can extract more moisture from the soil than other native plants causing competition between plants. In addition, decaying eucalyptus trees can release aromatic compounds that can interfere with the germination process of native plants.[74] In compliance with his earnest desire to have a working ranch, Colonel Campbell had apricot, olive, walnut trees, fields of beans, wheat, and alfalfa planted on the grounds. As well as a variety of flowers and vegetable gardens for the family's use.[75] Due to his pretty unlimited budget, he purchased various farm equipment like tractors meaning that in some way the Campbells had a small farming operation.

The ecological changes done by the Campbells have done lasting damage to the land of Coal Oil Point. Although not all changes were started by them they did continue many practices that had been begun by previous owners of the land. This makes us turn to the near past and present efforts to preserve wildlands and natural habitats not only for future generations but also for teaching and research. Not only have there been efforts to conserve but also to restore which will additionally bring us into a discussion on how much is it possible to restore and to what standards.

Conclusion

Ranching and agriculture had a long-lasting effect on the California landscape. As evident by the Santa Barbara Rancho Map, Santa Barbara County consisted of many ranches all along the coast and the north boundary. These ranches had huge effects on the native people

[74] "Eucalyptus in California," accessed January 27, 2024, https://ucanr.edu/sites/Igor/Mature_-_Historic_Tree_Stands/Eucalyptus_in_California.
[75] Modugno, "Coal Oil Point."

living there and the native fauna and flora. Ranches and agriculture first appeared in the California landscape with the arrival of European namely Spanish explorers who first introduced cattle as a way to bring their “European way of living” into the New World. Ranching was first utilized by missionaries and then it became more of an independent approach mostly done by foreigners as a way to gain land. Later on, it became a very prominent way for American settlers to pursue Manifest Destiny and accomplish their American Dream. Then in the early twentieth century, it became a way for wealthy people to use the land to build estates to suit their needs. The Campbells then on the other hand decided to combine both of their dreams and needs to have a huge sprawling estate designed to the wealthy manner of living they were accustomed to and also to have a working ranch and experience the ranching life that surrounded them such as the Storke Ranch and the Hollister Ranch.

Chapter 2: Reserve and Restoration

The Campbells are noteworthy in the history of Coal Oil Point because they were the last owners of the land who practiced ranching and agriculture on it and who created big environmental changes in the form of development. As such, for the most part although the land was owned by Helena Devereux there were little to no changes to the land. This was until the land was bought by the University of California at Santa Barbara and incorporated into the UC Natural Reserve System. The need for these reserve systems arises throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as compared to older and wealthier institutions on the East Coast and Europe, scientists in California did not have access to the same resources such as extensive libraries, museum collections, or laboratory facilities. However, due to California's varying landscapes, scientists who "stressed observation of the environment over experimentation" felt called to California to study the laboratory.[76] Not only that but due to rapid urbanization in the twentieth century, many natural environments that scientists were either planning to or were studying were quickly disappearing and the environments and ecosystems were irreparably damaged. In the long term, this lack of resources and the desire to study "natural" California environments led to the creation of the UC Natural Reserve System. This system was created with the goal of "provid[ing] undisturbed environments for research, education and public outreach programs."[77] The NRS arose as a way for "natural" environments to be preserved and restored for research preservation of environments.

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[76] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 9.
[77] "Our Reserves," Natural Reserve System, accessed March 20, 2024, https://nrs.ucsb.edu/our-reserves/.

Historiography

An important concept to contend with is the struggle to reach a firm conclusion on what makes an environment reach what could be considered "peak natural". Many ecologists see the standard to strive for when restoring is seen as Columbus marking pre-European contact as the marker for "peak natural".[78] However, it can be argued that even before Columbus native peoples affected and influenced the environment. By noticing social cues and paying attention to how certain environmental conditions affected certain plants and animals as a result they "sought to promote these conditions when possible."[79] As such it is apparent that in a way the environment was being manipulated by the native people and although it may not be to the point it reached after European involvement it was still manipulated with. Robert Elliot, in *Faking Nature*, brings up the idea that varying "degrees of value on landscape appears, the greater its value."[80] Therefore, the more natural, meaning less human intervention, is seen as more important. As a result, this raises a tough question of how one sets a pre-human standard to strive for when discussing restoring an environment.

Historian Megan Raby presents the idea of an ecosystem as an "ark" or an "archive".[81] These preservationists see these places as "land bastions of pristine wilderness."[82] Then once these environments have been identified, they are isolated in order to protect them and preserve them. At some point, it is important to note that these arks cease being only "natural spaces" but also scientific objects. This conversion leads to the "accumulation of legacy attached to the area

[78] Anita Guerrini, Donald R. Burnette, and Jenifer E. Dugan, "Invisible Landscapes: Perception, Heritage, and Coastal Change in Southern California," in *Coastal Heritage and Cultural Resilience,* ed. Lisa L. Price (SpringerLink, 2018), 23.
[79] Fischer, Cattle Colonialism, 43.
[80] Guerrini, "Invisible Landscapes", 23.
[81] Guerrini, "Invisible Landscapes", 24.
[82] Guerrini, "Invisible Landscapes", 24.

[to be] inevitable".[83] This means that the landscape becomes an ark that becomes an archive. Then the collection of data creates a history that humans inevitably are a part of and as such are "intertwined in the landscape's legacy."[84] The pattern of restoration and conservation across California's environments is evident in Laura Alice Watt's book, *The Paradox of Preservation: Wilderness and Working Landscapes at Point Reyes National Shore*. Although this book does not present the same environments to the ones that make up Coal Oil Point it does share a very similar history. One in which both of the lands were once privately owned land used for dairy and cattle ranches. However, a rather large differing factor is that the National Park Service was not able to balance the need to restore the environment and the needs of the community surrounding it.[85] This provides a basis into analyzing how successful Coal Oil Point Reserve was in restoration and conservation methods not only ecologically but also with handling the community as best as possible in order to not create incredibly large backlash. In the book *Industrial Cowboys,* historian David Zigler, looks at how two German immigrants consolidated extensive land and water rights in order to see how the American west underwent extensive transformations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in relation to the concept of land stewardship.[86] These sources provide background information and concepts that help to formulate and distinguish the importance of not only the reserve system as a whole but also of how this reserve system stands out against other similar endeavors.

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[83] Guerrini, "Invisible Landscapes," 25.
[84] Guerrini, "Invisible Landscapes:," 24.
[85] Laura Alice Watt, *The Paradox of Preservation: Wilderness and Working Landscapes at Point Reyes National Seashore* (University of California Press, 2017), 41-64.
[86] David Igler, *Industrial Cowboys* (University of California Press, 2001), 5.

Reserve System

The idea for the creation of the Nature Reserve System was born in 1948. In 1948, Ken Norris was a graduate student at the University of California at Los Angeles.[87] For his dissertation, Norris was looking at the heat-tolerant desert iguana in the Coachella Valley. In order to study the desert iguana, he spent weeks in the dunes observing them in their natural habitat. However, when he came back to continue observing them he realized that the study area had been bulldozed in order to build a large hotel.[88] As a result, his graduate research program was forced to a stop. This made Norris realize that the rapid urbanization throughout the country would lead to the loss of a lot of wildlands many of which were used for research.[89] Ken Norris had been working in the laboratory of zoologist Ray Cowles who had also noticed the disappearance of many natural environments. Dr. Corwles had watched many wild places that had once supported his research slowly disappear. Through this, Cowle had tried to convince the University to "accept large tracts of wildland offered to him."[90] The University however always refused his proposals. After Norris took over from Cowles he concluded that if only the UC Regents were to approve one reserve then all of the other campuses would also want one of their own. The then University of California president, Clar Kerr, liked the idea and designated seven natural lands that already belonged to the University to be natural reserves. The next step in their mission to establish natural reserves across California was to visit every UC campus and created a plan that would include the varied ecological diversity of the state. In order to accomplish this, they envisioned 44 reserves that between them all would have parts of every ecological

[87] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 4.
[88] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 5.
[89] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 4.
[90] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 5.

environment that California has to offer.[91] From this dream, the Natural Reserve System was born which encompassed more than 100,000 acres across 33 reserves. Many of these reserves have facilities and staff with systems dedicated to higher education and research. By 2012, the NRS was made up of 38 natural reserves and more than 750,000 acres.[92]

The NRS protected wildland sites are meant to preserve and maintain the ecosystems in an undisturbed condition specifically for research and teaching. Each of the reserves was carefully chosen for "their natural integrity, ecological variety, and inclusion of special characteristics not found elsewhere in the system" and the "viability of each site's ecosystem."[93] This principle was established in the Natural Reserve System's original charter establishing the importance for "the preservation of a natural environment … so that present and future faculty members and students may do research and make observations."[94] As such the ecosystem's heath is the most important thing for reserves. Each reserve has a faculty manager and a management advisory committee meant to evaluate project proposals.[95]

The reserves are used as "outdoor laboratories" where natural systems can be analyzed, and important ecological principles can be understood.[96] The research looks at immediate global problems like wildland conversion, loss of native biodiversity, and climate change, among many other problems. Reserves support instructional programs meant for education. Students gain to

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[91] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 6.
[92] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 8.
[93] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 13.
[94] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 15.
[95] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 17.
[96] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 21.

spend time out on the field and learn concepts that are usually difficult to learn in a classroom.[97] The NRS makes reserves available to government agencies and conservation groups. Although technically reserve is used mostly by permission only, the general public is able to visit the reserves and learn about the research done there.[98] In addition, elementary and secondary students are provided with environmental educational opportunities. Reserve staff design instructional projects, teach students, and coordinate teaching demonstrations by scientists.

The purpose of the natural reserves is to protect wildlands so that they can be studied in perpetuity. All in all, the Natural Reserve System employs the principle of land stewardship in a very different manner from the type that previous owners had used. This pursuit to preserve reserves involves people removing invasive weeds and improving habitat for wildlife as such "the act of stewardship enhances the value of reserves."[99] The NRS sees land stewardship as caring for the environment in a way that takes ecological ramifications largely into account. Past owners of the land had seen land stewardship as a caring for the environment but in a way that took social and even economic ramifications towards them as their priority.

Coal Oil Point Reserve

Coastal zones are made up of incredibly dynamic ecosystems and landscapes. Coastlines have a wide variety of habitats including sandy beaches, dunes, rocky tidepools, cliffs, a saltwater slough, coastal mesas, and freshwater marshes and pools.[100] Devereux Point is part of

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[97] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 25.
[98] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 26.
[99] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 28.
[100] Guerrini, "Informing Ecological Restoration in a Coastal Context," 132.

the Santa Barbara Channel just north of Santa Barbara and is owned by the University of California at Santa Barbara and is part of the University of California Natural Reserve System. The area has a long history of human habitation by the Chumash and then ranching by Spanish and American settlers which concluded with the Campbell family as this paper has gone over previously. Spanish explorers made their way across the Californian coast in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries they did not settle in California until the eighteenth century.[101] The land was then bought by Miss Helena Devereux in order to open a school for children with special needs.[102] Then in 1945, the land surrounding the Campbell mansion was bought by the University of California at Santa Barbara. It wasn't until 1970 that the UC Regents incorporated Coal Oil Point into the Natural Reserve System. The reserve is largely used by scientists and students and is used as a teaching site for university students for courses like botany or invertebrate zoology among many others. Scientists use the reserve to monitor migratory birds, research dunes, and estuary plant restoration.[103]

The reserve is not only used for academic purposes but also for recreational use by students and other members of the community. Surfers are very common and are attracted by the offshore break, sunbathers enjoy basking on the sand, and many members of the community see this as the perfect place to take their dogs for walks along the beach.[104] Even after Coal Oil Point became a reserve people continued to have unrestricted access for many years essentially meaning that the reserve designation was mostly for show. However, in the summer of 2001, scientists noticed that a pair of the federally protected western snowy plover had successfully

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[101] Guerrini, "Informing Ecological Restoration in a Coastal Context," 132.
[102] Modugno, "Coal Oil Point."
[103] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 93.
[104] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 95.

hatched two chicks in "recently vegetated sections of beach dunes."[105] This was a huge milestone for the reserve as it marked the first recorded chicks in over 30 years. This shows the importance of vegetated sections of beach dunes which struggle to remain when people trample over sand dunes in an effort to get to the beach.

Conservation and Restoration Efforts

The US Pacific population of snowy plovers was first listed in 1993 as federally threatened.[106] The entire population of snowy plovers was made up of 1,300 individuals and around 80 percent of its preferred nesting sites had been altered.[107] Kevin Lafferty, a biologist for the US Geological Survey studied plovers at the reserve. In this study, he found that beachgoers and their dogs were the ones who were constantly disturbing the birds while they ate, rested, and incubated their eggs at a much higher rate.[108] The research prompted a higher level of protection for the plovers. With this new data, the reserve director Cris Sandoval designed a management plan to protect the plovers as best as possible. The easiest thing they could have done was to restrict all public access to the beach.[109] However, by understanding the importance of the beach to the community they instead decided to target visitor behavior in order to have both public use and plover protection. At another beach along the coast, almost five of a beach had been closed to public access in 1999 after a critical habitat designation. Because these closures had happened

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[105] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 95.
[106] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 93.
[107] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 95.
[108] Lafferty, "Disturbance to Wintering Western Snowy Plovers," 2.
[109] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 95.

during a period of heavy beach use a lot of people grew angry causing a lot of public opposition.[110] At the same time, the tiger salamander which lived mainly in agricultural areas was placed on the endangered species list. This caused local farmers to join the protests with chants like "Today it's the salamander, tomorrow it's who knows what."[111] This led to loud protests from members of the community and bumper stickers proclaiming, "Save the beaches, fry the plovers."[112] As such they decided that the best course of action would not be to take extreme actions like closing the beach to everyone. As such trails were rerouted so that they would go around potential nesting sites. In addition, signs featuring maps, explanations, and reminders to keep dogs on leash were posted along with fences to keep people and animals outside of ecologically sensitive areas.[113]

The biggest addition however was the creation of the Snowy Plover Docent Program in August of 2001. This program relies on docent volunteers to watch over the plovers from dawn until dusk. Furthermore, they are in charge of teaching visitors about the plovers and the proper etiquette to display in a Marine Protected Area (MPA). One of the bigger duties of a docent volunteer is to remind visitors to keep their dogs leashed throughout the fenced-off area and they cannot lounge along the fenced area. This program is seen as a "model for balancing human and environmental needs in protected areas."[114] All of these efforts have been greatly beneficial to the reserve. With the public no longer walking over sectioned-off areas there have been more

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[110] Anita Guerrini, "The Trouble with Plovers," in *New Visions of Nature*, ed. Martin Drenthen (Springer, 2009), 81.
[111] Guerrini, "The Trouble with Plovers," 81.
[112] Guerrini, "The Trouble with Plovers," 81.
[113] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 95.
[114] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 96.

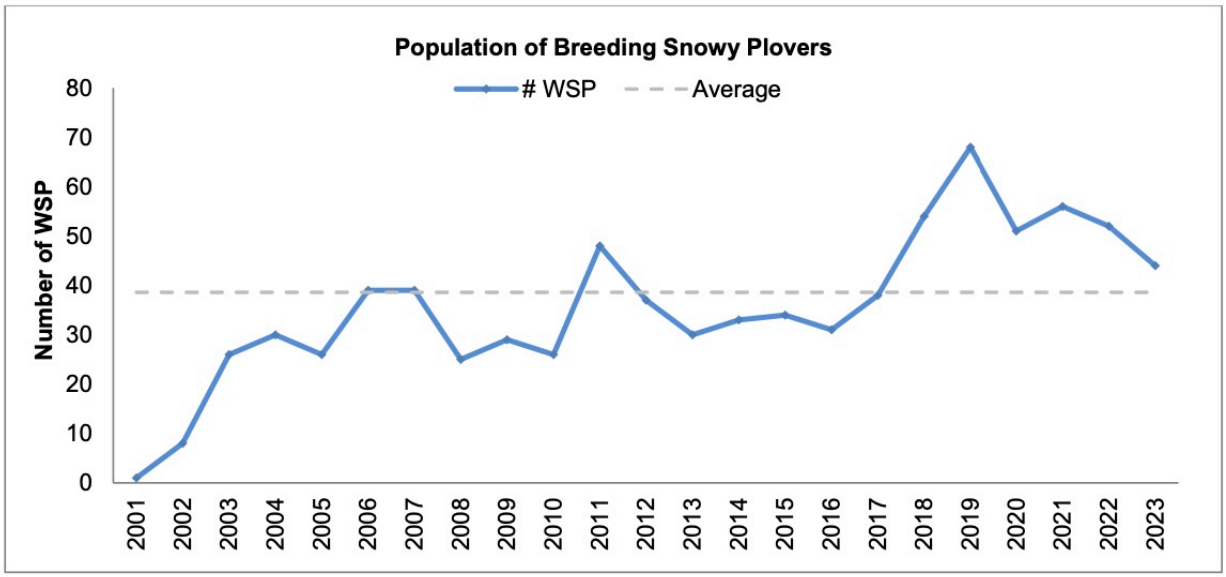

Figure 8. Counts of Western Snowy Plovers during the breeding window surveys at Coal Oil Point. Coal Oil Point Reserve Western Snowy Plover Report 2023.

untrammeled dunes with native plants like native beach primrose and sand verbena.[115] This difference is easy to see for the naked eye on any day as the dunes are more visible behind the roped-off area than on the other side of the rope.

This has not been the only change as more snowy plovers have caused a positive effect on the rest of the coastal ecosystem. The healthy numbers of plover populations have caused a higher number of shorebirds like whimbrels and western gulls as noted by researchers. This is a really big example of how effective restoration efforts have been. The increase in breeding snowy plovers since 2001 in figure 8 signify the efficacy of conservation methods and programs established for the protection of this fragile ecosystem.[116]

The addition of the reserve had a huge lasting effect on the ecosystems of the reserve. Every small change to restore or conserve aspects of the coastal ecosystem has the potential to

[115] *The Environmental Legacy of the UC Natural Reserve System* (University of California Press, 2013), 96.
[116] Cristina Sandoval, Jessica Gray, and Armando Aispuro, *2023 Final Report on the Western Snowy Plover*, February 9, 2024, 8.

affect every aspect of the ecosystem. The preservation and restoration of coastal systems have been a large part of ecosystems. These efforts at restoration and conservation are protected by a combination of federal and state legislation and UC policies.[117] Some of the main efforts to actively enhance natural habitats is through weed control, restoration, reintroduction of plants that had previously been forcibly removed, trash removal, and overall management of public access. The plans as formulated by the Coal Oil Point reserve can be found outlined mainly in the 2015 Coal Oil Point Management Plan and in the 2007 Restoration Plan approved by the California Coastal Commission. Some examples of the efforts that have been done to restore the environment is the restoration of seven vernal pools with approval from the California Coastal Commission. The most important exotic species that they have found that have already been removed or are still being removed include acacia, myoporum, fennel, thistles, pampas grass, cape ivy, ice plant, among others.[118]

Furthermore, in 2014, 150 native oak trees were planted and according to the 2015 Management Plant there were plans to plant at least 200 oak tree seedlings in 2015 and 2016.[119] The mission of the reserve as outlined in the 2015 Management Plan is to "restore habitats that have been degraded by past human activity following guidelines int the Restoration Plan."[120] It is important to note that any restoration or conservation efforts done by the reserve have been approved by specialists. In 2003, a panel of specialist were first consulted specifically about the restoration of grassland. The specialists did this by first looking at areas of the reserve that had been relatively undisturbed and were used as templates for restoring sites.[121] Another example of

[117] *Coal Oil Point Reserve Management Plan – Content*, 2015, 23.
[118] *Coal Oil Point Reserve Management Plan – Appendix*, 2015, 64.
[119] *Coal Oil Point Reserve Management Plan – Content*, 2015, 23.
[120] *Coal Oil Point Reserve Management Plan – Content*, 2015, 24.
[121] *Coal Oil Point Reserve Management Plan – Appendix*, 2015, 65.

the care that goes into this work is the way in which the reserve has gone about with dealing with invasive trees. The Reserve is the home of several invasive eucalyptus and cypress trees that they estimate were planted around 70 years prior.[122] As discussed above, eucalyptus trees are incredibly invasive and mainly they create a lot of competition with native plants for resources like water. Their projected plan is to slowly replace these trees with native trees like elderberry or coastal live oak. However, when the topic of removing the eucalyptus trees a large community worry arises that if they [the eucalyptus trees], which are not necessarily only in Coal Oil Point as many can be found on the UCSB campus, have found their place within the existing ecosystem, and are used by nesting birds or by migrating butterflies whether it is worth removing them.[123] These are valid concerns however in the topic of nesting birds using the trees if the reserve were to notice that the trees were being used by birds they would make a note not to remove these trees in order to not disturb the birds. Although not directly connected with Coal Oil Point, there have been student voices that have been against the removal of the Eucalyptus Curtain on campus. However, when commenting on this issue EEMB assistant professor Leander Love-Anderegg stated that the trees represent the "erasure of indigenous communities."[124] As such when the reserve takes not only how their actions will affect the ecological systems they also have to consider how the community at large will react.

[122] *Coal Oil Point Reserve Management Plan – Appendix*, 2015, 66.
[123] *Coal Oil Point Reserve Management Plan – Appendix*, 2015, 67.
[124] Emma Holm-Olsen and Anaya Khan, "Simply Stated: What can really be expected from the Ocean Road Housing Project?," *Daily Nexus*, August 29, 2022.

Conclusion

Conservation and restoration efforts have had a really big impact on the land of Coal Oil Point. The establishment of the Natural Reserve System was a big and arduous process for those who had seen and experienced first-hand how rapid urbanization in many areas had damaged and changed many environments. The rise of urbanization propelled by the romanticized idea of California made natural reserves a priority for many academics. However, with the emergence of reserves and the simultaneous rise of ecological restoration there arose questions of what exactly natural means and to what extent do restorationists aim at "restoring" an environment. These concepts demonstrate how quick humans are quick to romanticize and the extent of the effects that these notions can have. This is because when we romanticize this notion of an environment as being untouched or at peak "natural" to a period before European explorers then we are discounting the native people that used the land. And although they might have not affected the environment to the point that we can see European to have affected an environment they still interacted with the environment and as a result effected to some extent.

Epilogue

Land does not remain stagnant historically or environmentally. Rather it is subject to changes done at the whims of those who see themselves as stewards of it. As such it goes through a continuous process of change and whether it is good or bad is largely dependent on the individual or individuals who see themselves as owners of the land. This thesis argues that the land presently known as Coal Oil Point has undergone many ecological changes at the hands of those that see themselves as owners of the land be it ranchers like the Campbell family or those that are in charge of the reserve. By taking a look at the actions done by the Campbell family and afterward by the reserve, this paper contends with ideas of land ownership and stewardship while grappling with the complex idea of what "natural" in nature can come to mean when one attempts to restore an environment with a very deep history.

By looking at the Campbells it could be argued that their continued ranching practices and efforts to change the land to suit their needs were bad. However, in their eyes, they were the stewards of the land, and the land was meant to suit their needs. In this same manner when European explorers arrived in California they did not necessarily think about how their actions would mark the environment for decades to come. In contrast, they were solely concerned with how the land would help them flourish economically. As such, ranching which can negatively affect the environment is a process that was used on the land for a really long time with the Campbells being the last family to practice ranching on the land of Coal Oil Point. This allows us to see how ideas of land stewardship have changed over time and especially is a small span of time.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, Coal Oil Point became part of the Natural Reserve System due to a growing effort to preserve "natural" environments from the rapid rise of

urbanization. This brings up the issue of what is natural and how one establishes a point in time to reach a state of peak naturalness in nature. Through this discussion the idea of an ecosystem becoming an "ark", or an "archive" arises as reserves serve to encompass an environment and protect it from the changes happening in its surroundings. In this manner, Coal Oil Point Reserve is an archive of not only its natural state but also of how humans have played and continue to play a big part in the environment.

My research could be expanded on by looking at how other reserves have approached restoration. I believe that it would also be really vital if any information on how much cattle the Campbells had or how they were producing because the photographs point to a significant amount of agricultural action but I was unable to find ledgers denoting how many animals they had, if they made economic gains from this ranch, or if it was simply a way for Colonel Campbell to feel like he was an actual ranchero. It would also be interesting to find any data of how with recent restoration efforts how species, apart from Western Snowy Plovers, are responding if their numbers are increasing or not.

The history of the Campbell Estate will continue to evolve especially with the recently proposed project currently called the "Environmental Crossroads" project.[125] This project would be donor-funded and meant to renovate and support a program meant to provide a space for UCSB leaders and students, in the fields of environmental and climate research to connect with business leaders, and academics among many others to foster environmental stewardship. This is a way for programs and groups within campus that otherwise are disconnected to connect and foster deeper connections amongst each other. This would be a way to invest or to draw energy and activity to what is considered "largely unused and unoccupied," referring to the Campbell

[125] *Devereux Environmental Project Working Group manuscript*, 2023.

Estate which is in fact not in use.[126] There have been multiple proposed activities to take place in this newly renovated space. They want this place to be a dedicated meeting space for environmental activities, a collision space to bring together what is already happening in different programs, or a way to bring together the Santa Barbara community institutions that are already established but often work on their own.

Regardless, of whether or not this project comes to fruition Coal Oil Point will continue to evolve based on many factors like evolving restoration and research methods or as a result of environmental changes. Whatever it may be the histories of the land and of humans will continue to be entwined with each other as long as humans continue to exist and interact with the land. As such it is important to understand how the meaning of land stewardship can change over time and changes to an environment which may at first appear inconsequential can have long-lasting effects.

[126] *Devereux Environmental Project Working Group manuscript*, 2023.

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