

VENTURA COUNTY

STAR

Local

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Ventura County named No. 1 in desirability

■ Scale used to rate qualities in Lower 48

From staff reports

Of America's 3,111 counties, Ventura County is No. 1.

So says The Washington Post's Wonk Blog, which used a natural amenities scale developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to rank counties in the 48 continental states. It determined "Ventura County, CA, is the absolute most desirable place to live in America."

The index, the department's Economic Research Service explains, is intended to measure

"the physical characteristics of a county area that enhance the location as a place to live."

It takes into account such qualities as climate, topography, proximity to a body of water, sunny winters and low humidity and uses climate, topography and other factors to create a ranking.

Given all those factors, counties in sunny California and Florida scored very high, while counties in the upper Midwest fared most poorly.

All 10 top-ranked counties are in California. Humboldt County ranked second, followed by Santa Barbara County.

On the Net:
<http://tinyurl.com/nm3my82>



CHUCK KIRMAN/STAR FILE PHOTO

Kids play at the beach near the Ventura Pier on Friday morning.