



## Natural Reserve System UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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The UC Natural Reserve System provides a *library of ecosystems* throughout California. Reserves offer *outdoor laboratories* to field scientists, *classrooms without walls* for students, and *nature's inspiration* to all.

### Reserves are listed by administering campus

#### Berkeley

- 1 Angelo Coast Range Reserve
- 2 Blue Oak Ranch Reserve
- 3 Chickering American River Reserve
- 4 Hastings Natural History Reservation
- 5 Jenny Pygmy Forest Reserve
- 6 Sagehen Creek Field Station

#### Davis

- 7 Bodega Marine Reserve
- 8 Jepson Prairie Reserve
- 9 McLaughlin Natural Reserve
- 10 Quail Ridge Reserve
- 11 Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve

#### Irvine

- 12 Burns Piñon Ridge Reserve
- 13 San Joaquin Marsh Reserve
- 14 Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center

#### Los Angeles

- 15 Stunt Ranch Santa Monica Mountains Reserve
- 16 White Mountain Research Center

#### Merced

- Sierra Nevada Research Stations:
- 17 Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve
  - 18 Yosemite Field Station

#### Riverside

- 19 Box Springs Reserve
- 20 Boyd Deep Canyon Desert Research Center
- 21 Emerson Oaks Reserve
- 22 James San Jacinto Mountains Reserve
- 23 Motte Rimrock Reserve
- 24 Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center

#### San Diego

- 25 Dawson Los Monos Canyon Reserve
- 26 Elliott Chaparral Reserve
- 27 Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve
- 28 Scripps Coastal Reserve

#### Santa Barbara

- 29 Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve
  - 30 Coal Oil Point Natural Reserve
  - 31 Kenneth S. Norris Rancho Marino Reserve
  - 32 Santa Cruz Island Reserve
  - 33 Sedgwick Reserve
- Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserves:
- 34 Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory
  - 35 Valentine Camp

#### Santa Cruz

- 36 Año Nuevo Island Reserve
- 37 Fort Ord Natural Reserve
- 38 Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve
- 39 Younger Lagoon Reserve



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Founded in 1965 to provide a network of wildland sites available for scientific study, the NRS has grown to include more than 40 locations encompassing more than 756,000 acres across the state.

The NRS is the world's largest university-operated system of natural reserves; no other network of field sites can match its size, scope, and ecological diversity.



PEGGY L. FIEDLER



KATHLEEN M. WONG



# UC Santa Cruz Reserves

## Año Nuevo Island Reserve



KATHLEEN M. WONG

In winter, the beaches of Año Nuevo Island teem with battling, birthing northern elephant seals. In spring and summer, the clifftops come alive with breeding cormorants, screeching gulls, and majestic brown pelicans. Located on a marine terrace separated from the mainland by a narrow channel, the island also holds the ruins of a historic lightstation. For over 40 years, the reserve has hosted groundbreaking studies on marine mammal behavior. Año Nuevo Island is available for scientific study through an agreement with California State Parks.



UC Santa Cruz

## Fort Ord Natural Reserve



CHRISTOPHER WOODCOCK

Decades as a military base preserved the maritime chaparral of Fort Ord Natural Reserve from development. The dense vegetation includes ceanothus and manzanita stunted by sandy, nutrient-poor soils. Legless lizards burrow through the loose substrate in search of insects to eat, while woodrats build nest mounds beneath oaks dripping with lichen. Endangered species protected here include sand gilia and Smith's blue butterfly.

## Younger Lagoon Reserve



CHRISTOPHER WOODCOCK

A rare Central Coast wetland, Younger Lagoon Reserve encompasses fresh and saltwater marshes, pickleweed flats, and a pocket beach featuring native dune vegetation. Tidepools harboring crabs and fish are located just offshore, while the federally endangered tidwater goby thrives in low-oxygen lagoon waters. Upland terraces, once farm fields, are being restored to coastal prairie.

## Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve



CHRISTOPHER WOODCOCK

The Santa Lucia Mountains plunge into the Pacific Ocean in the heart of scenic Big Sur. From ridgetops clad in rare Santa Lucia fir and coast redwood, Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve descends through oak woodlands and coastal grasslands. Steelhead trout ply clear canyon streams. Offshore, sea otters take refuge in the kelp beds of Big Creek State Marine Reserve.