



ADMINISTERING  
CAMPUS  
UC Berkeley

ESTABLISHED  
2007

#### LOCATION

Santa Clara County,  
7 miles east of downtown San Jose.

#### SIZE

1,319 ha (3,259 acres)

#### ELEVATIONS

454 to 870 m (1,489 to 2,855 ft)  
Mt. Hamilton summit: 1,280 m (4,200 ft)

#### AVERAGE PRECIPITATION

60.27 cm (23.7 in) per year

#### AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

January range:

2.6°C (36.6° F) to 9.1°C (48.3° F)

July range:

17.3°C (63.1° F) to 25.9°C (78.7° F)

*(Note: Both temp and rainfall stats were taken from National Weather Service station atop Mt. Hamilton, five miles from BORR.)*

#### FACILITIES

Reserve is day-use or overnight camping at this time. A network of roads gives access to most areas within the property. New facilities are currently being planned.

#### DATABASES

ArcGIS data library; airborne and satellite imagery for Mt. Hamilton Range; Google Earth KML for boundary and local features; species lists (vertebrates and plants); bibliography; climate records for Mt. Hamilton and City of San Jose. On-site weather station in operation since August 2008; two microclimate sensor networks will be in place by March 2009.

#### PERSONNEL

Resident reserve director, reserve steward; campus-based faculty reserve manager.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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#### UC NRS WEBSITE

<<http://nrs.ucop.edu>>

# Blue Oak Ranch Reserve

The Blue Oak Ranch Reserve (BORR) provides a wealth of research and teaching opportunities in a wide range of important Californian habitats. In addition to the blue oak woodlands that inspired its name, the site includes extensive upland valley oak woodlands, mixed (blue, black, valley, coast live) oak woodlands, steep densely vegetated canyons, and well preserved perennial streams with intact riparian vegetation and populations of native trout, river otters, and yellow-legged frogs. In total, the reserve supports more than 460 species of plants, 130 species of birds, 41 species of mammals, 7 species of amphibians, 14 species of reptiles, 7 species of fish, and hundreds of species of invertebrates. The reserve is embedded within more than 180,000 acres of land permanently protected by parks and open space (including UC's nearby Lick Observatory) and is an important connection in a long corridor for migratory wildlife between Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. The entire reserve is protected by a conservation easement held by The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

## SELECTED RESEARCH

The NRS's newest reserve, Blue Oak Ranch Reserve is now beginning its field research legacy. BORR has not officially operated as a coordinated field study site up to this point; nevertheless, academic scientists and land managers have collected extensive data over the years, resulting in very complete biotic inventories, surveys of invasive species, rare and endangered species surveys and studies, soil surveys, archeological sites, mapped GIS layers, and a documented history of land uses, including past and ongoing resource management activities, such as feral pig removal, prescribed burns, and invasive plant removal.

## FIELD COURSES & PUBLIC OUTREACH

Tremendous excitement is building for field use of BORR in its first year of operation. A survey of both UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz faculty indicates that nearly 50 faculty are planning to bring field courses to BORR, as well as initiate research projects in the upcoming year. While the management of BORR will certainly be able to accommodate day-use visits, it will be following the development of new facilities in 2009 that the full range of use of BORR for teaching, research, and public outreach can be realized.