



ADMINISTERING
CAMPUS
UC San Diego

ESTABLISHED
1965

LOCATION

Western San Diego County, within the cities of Carlsbad and Vista; 48 km (30 mi) north of San Diego.

SIZE

95 hectares (234 acres)

ELEVATION

67 to 179 m (220 to 587 ft)

AVERAGE PRECIPITATION

21 cm (8 in) per year

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

September maximum: 23°C (73°F)
January minimum: 7°C (45°F)

FACILITIES

Trailer with laboratory on site; library, laboratory, and dormitory support available on San Diego campus.

DATABASES

Aerial and historic photo archive; plant-recovery records from post-fire monitoring since 1982; species lists for vascular plants, birds, mammals; reserve-based publications since 1995; preliminary archaeological survey report.

PERSONNEL

Reserve manager and academic coordinator on San Diego campus; no personnel on site.

NRS PUBLICATIONS

Reserve brochure published 1989.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Dawson Los Monos Canyon Reserve

Flowing through the bottom of the Dawson Los Monos Canyon Reserve is Agua Hedionda Creek, one of the few perennial streams in Southern California, as it winds its way through the San Diego county foothills to the Pacific Ocean. Along the stream banks of the canyon floor grows a lush riparian woodland, which gives way to dense chaparral spreading up the steep north- and south-facing slopes. The wide upper canyon opens out onto old pastures of introduced annual grasses, the result of a century of grazing. Other reserve habitats, some of which were once common throughout Southern California, include coast live oak woodland, inland sage scrub, and a mixed grassland of native bunchgrasses and introduced annuals. Downstream from the reserve's western boundary lie the coastal wetlands of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon, which are preserved through state and federal legislation. These neighboring protected lands enable the movement of species between open spaces, which in turn encourages diversity and helps keep the reserve from becoming an isolated natural island in this growing region. The varied landscape of Los Monos Canyon supports a rich fauna, with more than 75 species of birds, including several pairs of nesting black-shouldered kites.

SELECTED RESEARCH

The effects of floral predation on the pollination biology and reproductive success of *Yucca whipplei*.

Parasite diversity of small mammals in fragmented areas.

Suitability of soils and habitat types for the federally endangered Pacific pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris pacificus*).

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Restoration ecology: Stream bank restoration.

Fire ecology: Old-growth and post-burn chaparral monitored since a 1982 fire.

Field courses: Site visits by university courses in ecology, human biology, and natural history; facilities are expanding to enhance teaching use.

Public outreach: San Diego Natural History Museum collects plant specimens.