



Administering
Campus
UC San Diego

Established
1969

Location

San Diego County, 16 km (10 mi)
northeast of San Diego campus; adjacent
to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Size

43 ha (107 acres)

Average Precipitation

26 cm (10 in) per year

Average Temperatures

Annual high: 22°C (71°F)

Annual low: 12°C (53°F)

Annual mean: 17°C (63°F)

Elevation

61 to 305 m (200 to 1,000 ft) at
adjacent Air Station Miramar.

Facilities

Storage provided near the reserve at the
Elliott Field Station; no on-site facilities.

Databases

Reserve-based publications since 1995.

Personnel

Academic coordinator on campus;
no personnel on site.

Contact Information

Isabelle Kay

Natural Reserve System

APM Prime Room #202

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NRS Website

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

Elliott Chaparral Reserve

Formerly part of the Camp Elliott Military Reservation, the Elliott Chaparral Reserve comprises a diverse mixture of natural coastal and desert habitats that is becoming more and more rare with rapid suburban growth in the San Diego region. The reserve encompasses a narrow, steep-sided ridge of the Kearny Mesa, bounded north and south by broad, flat-bottomed valleys and associated arroyos. The rolling topography is covered with an unusually wide variety of south coastal chaparral, much of it a nearly pure stand of greenwood, intermixed with elements of coastal sage scrub. Forty-five vascular plant species have been identified on the reserve, several of which have a relatively restricted distribution, such as ashy spike-moss, bushrue, and *Xylococcus*. The soils, formed on an Eocene conglomerate, are thin, pebbly, and leached, making the chaparral plants, particularly chamise, more stunted and open than in most other Southern California locations. Research and teaching opportunities are expanded beyond reserve boundaries onto large open lands, featuring rare vernal pools on clay hard-pan soils, on the adjacent Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Selected Research

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

Ecological assessment of ground obligate beetle diversity in western San Diego County, CA.

Special Programs

Teaching opportunities: Large expanses of near-pristine habitats serve as outdoor classrooms for teaching at all levels; UC San Diego students in ecology and other sciences take field trips to the site.

Habitat restoration: Some areas altered by development or exotic species are being restored to native habitat; a cooperative-research study examines irrigation and mulching methods to restore native chaparral while discouraging increases in invasive Argentine ant populations.