

Emerson Oaks Reserve

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

SITE SPECS



ADMINISTERING
CAMPUS
UC Riverside

ESTABLISHED
1991

LOCATION

Riverside County, 8 km (5 mi) southeast of Temecula; 73 km (45 mi) south of the city of Riverside; 50-minute drive south of Riverside campus; adjacent to Agua Tibia Wilderness.

SIZE

98 hectares (241 acres)

ELEVATION

439 to 640 m (1,440 to 2,100 ft)

FACILITIES

On-site facilities are currently limited; future plans are for on-site housing for researchers, however at this time the site is best suited for day use.

DATABASES

Beginning inventory of fungi, vertebrates, and plants.

PERSONNEL

Reserve director,
part-time, on-site caretaker.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Emerson Oaks Reserve in the Temecula Valley lies in a transitional zone between the California coast and the Colorado Desert. Four major climatic zones: mountain, desert, coastal, and interior valley converge on site, helping influence a variety of habitats. This reserve provides excellent opportunities to study the management of oak woodlands, a habitat that is in decline throughout California. Oak woodlands and coastal sage scrub habitats are found on the reserve's lower and gentler slopes. The higher and more rugged elevations support oak trees and dense stands of chaparral. These diverse habitats and several permanent springs help support a wide variety of wildlife. Observed fauna include: mule deer, kangaroo rats, hawks (Cooper's, red-tailed, and red-shouldered), American kestrel, western scrub jays, wrentits, Hutton's vireo, California thrashers, rattlesnakes (red diamond and Southern Pacific), orange-throated whiptail, coast horned lizard, and a variety of butterflies, including the California sister and Lorquin's admiral. The reserve, which is protected by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), is bordered by the Pechanga Indian Reservation, Agua Tibia Wilderness, Dorland Mountain Artists' Retreat, agricultural land, scattered residences, and lands held by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

SELECTED RESEARCH

Inventories of the site's vertebrates, plants, and fungi are in progress.

A variety of research involving mycorrhizal fungi related to live oaks.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Habitat restoration: Removal of non-native species in the lower canyon.

Field courses: The site is visited by university courses in vertebrate field biology and mycology.