

NRS**N A T U R A L
R E S E R V E
S Y S T E M**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

SITE SPECSADMINISTERING
CAMPUS
UC Santa BarbaraESTABLISHED
2001**LOCATION**

San Luis Obispo County, bordering the south end of the town of Cambria

MAP

Cambria Quadrangle 7.5', San Simeon 15' quadrangle

SIZE

200 hectares (500 acres)

ELEVATION

0 to 216 m (0 to 702 ft)

AVERAGE PRECIPITATION

46 cm (18 in) per year; in flood years, 89 cm (35 in)

FACILITIES

A 32-ft travel trailer and 25-ft RV provide 8 beds. With an adjacent outhouse, up to 20 campers can be accommodated for short stays. UC manager residence/garage adjacent. Camp Ocean Pines (805-927-0254, <<http://www.campoceanpines.org/>>) on the reserve border, if not in use, may be available for larger groups — make reservations at least a month in advance. All other reserve structures are excluded from NRS use, as per agreement. Contact the reserve manager for current rates.

DATABASES

Species lists of intertidal and terrestrial plants and animals. Weather (temperature, rainfall, wind, barometric pressure, irradiation). Sea temperature.

PERSONNEL

Resident reserve manager and half-time administrative assistant on UCSB campus.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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NRS WEBSITE

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

11/29/04 REV3 sgr

Kenneth S. Norris Rancho Marino Reserve

The Kenneth S. Norris Rancho Marino Reserve offers one of the most spectacular stretches of coastal habitats in central California. Its diverse habitats include extensive rocky shoreline (~3 kilometers), nearshore kelp forests, coastal grasslands (grazed and ungrazed), a mixed Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) forest (91 hectares/225 acres), and coastal scrub (17.5 hectares/43 acres). Three registered Salinan archaeological sites on the reserve date back to 5,000 B.P. Flanking the reserve is a section of one of the largest kelp beds in California, a combination of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) and bull kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana*). Withering foot syndrome has killed most of the black abalone (*Haliotis cracherodii*) south of the reserve. The reserve's southernmost healthy black abalone population is being monitored. Roughly one-quarter of the reserve harbors patches of coastal terrace prairie (among the most threatened and diverse plant communities in North America) with healthy populations of native grasses and flowers. Areas of thick Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*) would be good sites for restoration studies. A small population of red-legged frogs (*Rana aurora*) are found in the reserve's smaller stock pond. The larger pond (0.5 hectares/1.2 acre) has non-native fishes. Monterey pine forest runs along the site's ridge top and slopes — the Cambria area is one of three places in the U.S. where remnant native stands can still be found. Coast live oaks are an abundant understory here. A current flora of terrestrial vascular plants lists approximately 90 species, with 60 percent (more than 50 species) native. The site is suitable for year-round use and well located within reasonable driving distance from several UC campuses: 2.5 hours from UCSB, 3 hours from UCSC, and 4.5 hours from UCLA or UCB.

- For a list of research and instructional use projects, view the reserve's annual report: <<http://nrs.ucop.edu/reserves/Rancho%20Marino/Annual%20Report.html>>.
- The Partnership for the Study of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) has sites in the intertidal and subtidal habitats adjacent to the reserve: <<http://www.piscoweb.org/>>.
- Reserve images can be viewed through the California Coastal Records Project: <<http://www.californiacoastline.org/>>. Look up photos that range from Latitude N 35°32.36 / Longitude W 121° 05.70 through Latitude N 35°31.36 / Longitude W 121° 04.88.
- The reserve remains privately owned. It is operated under a use agreement that limits use to university-level research and education.