



ADMINISTERING
CAMPUS
UC Santa Barbara

ESTABLISHED
1972

LOCATION

Mono County, on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada next to the town of Mammoth Lakes.

SIZE

62 hectares (154 acres)

ELEVATION

2,437 to 2,605 m (7,994 to 8,545 ft)

AVERAGE PRECIPITATION

51 to 64 cm (20 to 25 in) per year

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

July maximum: 25°C (77°F)
January minimum: -10°C (14°F)

FACILITIES

Housing for 20 in three renovated cabins w/ modern cooking, sleeping, bathroom facilities; electricity; spring water; limited parking/storage space; new log classroom building; supplies available in neighboring Mammoth Lakes; lab/living space for researchers, dormitory space for classgroups (up to 25) available at SNARL.

DATABASES

Synoptic collections of plants/insects available at SNARL and UCSB; bibliography of publications based on on-site research; aerial photos; geographic information system (GIS) being developed.

PERSONNEL

VESR staff reserve manager located at SNARL; year-round resident caretaker at Valentine Camp.

NRS PUBLICATIONS

Reserve brochure published 1987.
VESR Flora, 2nd ed. published 2000 — available via NRS website (see below).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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UC NRS WEBSITE

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

Valentine Camp

A component of the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve (VESR)

Valentine Camp is a center for research in the high Sierra Nevada and the upper Owens Valley. The reserve lies in a glacier-carved basin in a transition zone between the sagebrush desert of the Great Basin and the coniferous forests of the high Sierra Nevada. With its varied topography and soils, the site encompasses several distinct habitats: Sierran upper-montane forest and chaparral, Great Basin sagebrush, and wet montane meadow, all occurring within a relatively small area. Mammoth Creek flows through the site, bordered by high montane riparian vegetation. Several large springs and small seeps add to diverse habitats. Valentine Camp joins with the NRS's nearby Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory (SNARL) to comprise the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve (VESR).

SELECTED RESEARCH

Fire ecology: Fire-history studies, stand/age analysis, and fuel-loading maps used to develop a fire management plan.

Wetland mapping project: Identification and delineation of wetlands in Long Valley.

Plant ecology: Population ecology, eco-physiology, and genetics of mountain brome grass.

Avian ecology: Artificial nest boxes used to attract house wrens for study in breeding behavior and endocrinology.

Expanded research opportunities: Studies of insects, mammals, and amphibians conducted on the reserve and at other regional sites.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Forest management: Low-impact horse-logging and hand crews engaged on site to reduce fire hazards and improve forest health.

Public outreach: Outdoor science education programs for local schools; K-7 summer school; college internships; public tours; short courses.

Field courses: Site visits by university courses in wetland delineation, botany, and plants of the high country.

Environmental monitoring: Spring discharge at reserve monitored to assess effects of groundwater pumping by local Mammoth Lakes community; monitoring spring flows in Mammoth Creek; reserve manager monitors development in surrounding area and participates in local planning.