The UC Natural Reserve System provides a library of ecosystems throughout California. Reserves offer outdoor laboratories to field scientists, classrooms without walls for students, and nature’s inspiration to all.

Founded in 1965 to provide a network of wild-land sites available for scientific study, the NRS has grown to include more than 40 locations encompassing more than 47,000 acres across the state.

The NRS is the world’s largest university-operat-ed system of natural reserves; no other network of field sites can match its size, scope, and ecological diversity.

Reserves are listed by managing campus

**Berkeley**
1. Angelo Coast Range Reserve
2. Blue Oak Ranch Reserve
3. Chilnualna American River Reserve
4. Hastings Natural History Reservation
5. Jenny Pygmy Forest Reserve
6. Point Reyes Field Station
7. Sagehen Creek Field Station

**Davis**
8. Bodega Marine Reserve
9. Jepson Prairie Reserve
10. Lassen Field Station
11. McLaughlin Natural Reserve
12. Quail Ridge Reserve
13. Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve

**Irvine**
14. Burns Piñon Ridge Reserve
15. San Joaquin Marsh Reserve
16. Steele/Burnand Arza-Borrego Desert Research Center

**Los Angeles**
17. Stunt Ranch Santa Monica Mountains Reserve
18. White Mountain Research Center

**Merced**
19. Merced Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve
20. Yosemite Field Station

**Riverside**
21. Box Springs Reserve
22. Boyd Deep Canyon Desert Research Center
23. Emerson Oaks Reserve
24. James San Jacinto Mountains Reserve
25. Motte Rimrock Reserve
26. Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center

**San Diego**
27. Dawson Los Monos Canyon Reserve
28. Elliott Chaparral Reserve
29. Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve
30. Scripps Coastal Reserve

**Santa Barbara**
31. Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve
32. Coal Oil Point Natural Reserve
33. Kenneth S. Norris Ranchos Marino Reserve
34. Santa Cruz Island Reserve
35. Seedwick Reserve
36. Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory
37. Valentine Camp

**Santa Cruz**
38. Año Nuevo Island Reserve
39. Fort Ord Natural Reserve
40. Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve
41. Younger Lagoon Reserve
Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory

Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory is best known for the experimental stream channels that wind through this verdant Great Basin shrubland. A grove of quaking aspen shades a creek frequented at twilight by hunting bats. A fully equipped laboratory and extensive residential facilities help make this component of Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve a major center for science research in eastern California.

Valentine Camp Reserve

Nestled into a glacier-carved basin beneath Mammoth Mountain, Valentine Camp Reserve occupies a transition zone between Sierra Nevada coniferous forests and Great Basin sagebrush deserts. This component of Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve includes a wet montane meadow, a stream lined with high montane riparian vegetation, and many springs.

UC Santa Barbara Reserves

Kenneth S. Norris Rancho Marino Reserve

A spectacular stretch of Central California shoreline, Kenneth S. Norris Rancho Marino Reserve includes rocky tidepools, kelp forests, and a rich array of intertidal life. The Cambria Marine Protected Area lies just offshore. Reserve lands include a rare native stand of Monterey pine, coastal terraces, and three Salinan archeological sites.

Sedgwick Reserve

A former cattle ranch, Sedgwick Reserve hosts coast live oak forest, blue oak woodland, and valley oak savanna. Endemic native plants grow on outcroppings of serpentine soils. Former Chumash habitations and portions of a major geologic fault system add further interest.

Coal Oil Point Reserve

A stretch of coastal strand adjacent to UC Santa Barbara, Coal Oil Point Reserve includes a seasonally flooded lagoon, tidal flats, and coastal scrub habitat. An onsite slough dries to form salt flats and hypersaline channels in summer. Endangered western snowy plovers raise marshmallow-sized chicks amid protected sand dunes.

Santa Cruz Island Reserve

Santa Cruz Island Reserve hosts species that evolved here after long isolation from the mainland. Terrestrial habitats range from protected coves to perennial streams and mountaintop forests. The marine ecosystem features organisms of both cool northern and warm southern currents. Great geological diversity, abundant archeological sites, and projects to restore the island’s native ecology offer many study and research opportunities.

Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve

A critically important estuary, Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve encompasses emergent pickleweed marsh and meandering tidal channels. A rocky reef and kelp beds are located just offshore. This important nursery for halibut and other fishes also supports saltmarsh bird’s beak, an endangered plant.