

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

University of California

# Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve

## Site Specs

Administering  
Campus  
UC DavisEstablished  
1979

### Location

Solano and Napa Counties, 32 km (20 mi) west of Davis campus; 10 km (6 mi) west of Winters; 0.8 km (0.5 mi) east of Monticello Dam.

### Size

233 ha (583 acres)

### Elevation

91 to 762 m (300 to 2,500 ft)

### Average Precipitation

52 cm (20 in) per year

### Average Temperature

January: 8°C (46°F)

July: 28°C (82°F)

### Facilities

None; site is best suited for day use.

### Databases

Surveys of plants, insects, and vertebrates; see also website at <<http://nrs.ucop.edu/reserves/stebbins/nature.htm>>; in summer 2001, a new handbook of the natural history based on the website will be available.

### Personnel

Roving staff reserve manager; no on-site personnel.

### Contact Information

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### NRS Website

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

**T**he Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve, set in a steep, north-facing canyon of the northern Coast Range, provides excellent opportunities to study plant and animal communities of both the inner and outer Coast Ranges. Differences in slope, exposure, and moisture regimes promote a variety of undisturbed habitats, including valley and foothill grasslands, blue oak woodland, chamise chaparral, lower montane chaparral, mixed riparian woodland, and intermittent foothill stream. Year-round springs provide watering areas for many wildlife species, such as bear, mountain lion, deer, ringtail, and turkey. All together, 108 bird species (35 nesting), eight amphibian, eighteen reptile, 43 mammal, and more than 290 plant species have been found at the reserve. Also available for study, adjacent protected lands held by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the California Department of Fish and Game greatly expand the effective research area. The reserve is named in honor of world-renowned plant geneticist and long-time professor at UC Davis and Berkeley, G. Ledyard Stebbins, an avid naturalist with a strong interest in conserving natural biotic communities.

## Selected Research

Diversity and biology of cavity-nesting bees.

Effects of fire on native ant populations.

Microlepidopteran host associations.

Sources of variation in floral nectar availability in fireweeds.

Entomological surveys.

Studies of lyme disease.

Post-landslide plant succession.

## Special Programs

**Public access:** The site is fully open to the public; up to 5,000 people, mostly local hikers, visit the reserve annually and explore its canyon bottoms and ridgetops.

**Educational outreach:** The reserve is available for field trips by elementary and secondary schools.

**Field courses:** The site is visited by university courses in wildlife field techniques, California floristics, range science, wildlife biology, botany, plant ecology, and geology field studies.