16. 10-YEAR RESERVE REVIEWS

Purpose

It is the policy of the Natural Reserve System that NRS sites be reviewed at least every ten years to assess whether they continue to meet the NRS objectives. At the time each site was incorporated in the NRS, it underwent a stringent review process that involved campus NRS representatives, a three-campus review committee, the NRS Universitywide committee as a whole, the Chancellor of the administering campus, and the NRS Systemwide administration. Finally, The Regents approved incorporation of the site as an NRS reserve.

Physical, ecological, management, programmatic and administrative considerations may change over time, often because of factors beyond the University's control. Thus, a periodic review is needed to assess whether the values represented by a given reserve continue to or have the potential to be of sufficient importance to the research, teaching and public outreach mission of the NRS. It is also useful for an independent committee to recommend new management and administrative strategies to improve further the management, use, and administration of each reserve.

Procedures

An NRS Committee will be appointed by the Director of the Natural Reserve System based upon recommendations by the Chair of the NRS Universitywide Committee and the NRS faculty and staff from the administering campus. The committee will ordinarily consist of representatives from three campuses, the NRS systemwide office, and from the administering campus (as an *ex officio* member). An exception to the composition of the committee can be made to include a suitably qualified person from outside the University.

The administering campus will provide the committee with background information on the reserve, including site history, a complete description of the reserve's scientific value, management issues, research, teaching, and public outreach use, facilities and infrastructure, and its administration (campus administrative structure, staffing, promotion, and funding). The committee will review these background materials, visit the site, and prepare their evaluation and recommendations.

The committee's report will be submitted to the NRS Executive Director, who will seek comments from the NRS Universitywide Committee. Based on the review of the evaluation report and advice from other sources, the NRS Executive Director will forward the report to the Vice President of Research and the Chancellor of the administering campus for appropriate action.

Content of the Review

Given the great diversity of reserves, it is difficult to establish a specific procedural format that will be suitable for all reserves. Examples of the issues that the committee should address include, but are not limited to, the list of questions in Appendix A.

APPENDIX A: EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. Scientific Criteria

    1.   Does the reserve contain significant or unique species (including listed/threatened species), habitats, or physical, archaeological or cultural resources? Are these resources unique to this reserve or are they available at other NRS sites?

B. Management Issues

    1.   Are the reserve's resources viable in the long term? Are there management actions that should be taken to ensure their viability?

    2.   Is there a reserve management plan? Are appropriate measures being taken to implement this plan?

    3.   Is there legal, appropriate access to the reserve? Discuss problems, if any.

    4.   Is public use, if any, of the reserve appropriate and controllable? What means of controlling trespass should or can be undertaken?

    5.   Are present, planned, or potential land use activities adjacent to the reserve likely to significantly and adversely affect the reserve? Could these impacts feasibly be mitigated?

    6.   Is the University's management and use of the reserve supported by the local community? Do adjacent landowners have concerns that need to be addressed?

C. Legal/Ethical Issues

    1.   Is the administering campus complying with legal or ethical restrictions associated with the original conveyance, funding used to acquire the reserve, or any other terms of an applicable agreement (e.g., use agreement, license, conservation easement)?

D. Academic criteria

    1.   What is the level of past, current and potential research use at the reserve by the administering campus, other UC campuses, and other non-UC institutions? Is the current level and kind of research appropriate to the reserve? Should this use be expanded or improved and if so, how?

    2.   What is the level of past, current and potential teaching use at the reserve by the administering campus, other UC campuses, and other non-UC institutions? Is the current level and kind of teaching appropriate to the reserve? Should this use be expanded or improved and if so, how?

    3.   What is the level of past, current and potential public outreach programs at the reserve? Is the current level and kind of public use appropriate to the reserve? Should this use be expanded or improved and if so, how?

    4.   Are existing facilities and infrastructure (eg., roads, water, phone, electricity) adequate for academic needs? If not, what is needed to achieve minimal level of adequacy?

    5.   Has baseline information (e.g., research data, environmental monitoring records, species lists) been collected, archived and made accessible to reserve users and others?

    6.   Is use of this reserve integrated with research and teaching use of other NRS sites?

E. Reserve Administration

    1.   Is the existing campus NRS administrative structure appropriate?

    2.   Is the current level of staffing adequate to achieve reserve goals? If not, what more is needed?

    3.   How are faculty and students on the administering campus informed about the reserve? What efforts could be made to promote its use?

    4.   Is there adequate funding to achieve reserve program and management goals? If not, how much additional funding is needed to achieve these goals?

F. Recommendations

    1.   Management

    2.   Research, teaching, and public service use

    3.   Facilities

    4.   Information management

    5.   Promotion

    6.   Administrative structure

    7.   Staffing

    8.   Funding