The more than 40 reserves in the UC Natural Reserve System offer researchers from all disciplines unprecedented access to California’s diverse ecosystems. With lands and waters protected from development, and amenities such as housing, reserves provide long-term platforms for environmental research. Since its inception in 1965, the reserve system has fostered discoveries that have influenced public policy, aided human health, provided insights into sound land management methods, and conserved California’s extraordinary biodiversity.

**PUBLIC POLICY**
- Identified the federally threatened California tiger salamander’s need for upland habitat, information now in the species’ habitat conservation plan.
- Provide facilities for scientists using remote sensing to estimate Sierra Nevada snowpack.
- Served as a reintroduction site for the federally endangered southern mountain yellow-legged frog.
- Supported scientists who demonstrated the need to raise Mono Lake water levels.
- Informed the multispecies habitat conservation plan guiding Coachella Valley development.

**LAND STEWARDSHIP**
- Examining how fuels reduction methods such as prescribed burning, vegetation thinning, grazing, and other reduce wildfire risk and affect ecosystem function.
- Studying how best to restore native habitats in previously disturbed landscapes.
- Testing methods to reduce the spread of Sudden Oak Death across plant communities.

**MONITORING CLIMATE**
- Reserve climate stations form the backbone of the Sentinel Site Network tracking climate conditions across California.
- Documenting the impacts of marine heat waves on species ranges and ecology.
- Deciphering how and when water percolates through the plants, soils, streams and groundwater of natural ecosystems.
- Enabling biologists to revisit survey sites to document range and population shifts over a century among birds and mammals.

**HUMAN HEALTH**
- Investigate the effects of high elevation on human physiology.
- Track the ecology and spread of tick-borne pathogens.
- Use aquatic insects as water quality indicators in creeks carrying mine runoff.