

California Fish and Game Commission

April 17, 2024 Field Trip Details

Who: Commissioners, staff, California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff, and members of the public

What: Visit Blue Oak Ranch Reserve to learn more about the UC Natural Reserve System and this reserve in particular, managing for species listed under the California Endangered Species Act, controlling non-native invasive species such as wild pig and American bullfrog, and research activities being conducted onsite.

When: Wednesday, April 17, 2024, approximately 3:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.***

Where: Blue Oak Ranch Reserve, 16070 Mount Hamilton Road, San Jose, CA 95127

The Commission invites members of the public to join commissioners, staff, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff for a field trip Wednesday afternoon. Members of the public must provide their own transportation.

This field trip takes place outdoors and terrain may be somewhat uneven. Please wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes, consider layering clothing, and bring sun protection and drinking water. Field glasses or binoculars are encouraged.

Timing is dependent upon when the Commission meeting ends on Wednesday. If you are able to watch or listen to the meeting webcast or webinar in the afternoon, staff and commissioners should arrive about 30-35 minutes after the last agenda item for the day (general public comment). You will not be able to enter the property without Commission staff present, so please be patient until their arrival.

Meeting Location

Located in Santa Clara County, 11 miles east of downtown San Jose. Meet at Washburn Trailhead on Mount Hamilton Road; there is a locked yellow gate through which we will enter the property (area map and photo on page 2). Do not block the gate. Do plan to arrive a few minutes early as vehicles will caravan together along four miles of dirt road to the reserve field station. You will not be able to enter the property without Commission staff present.

Field Trip Overview

The Blue Oak Ranch Reserve is a member of the world's largest network of university-owned and operated biological field stations and ecological reserves. The Natural Reserve System was established in 1965 and is committed to supporting the University of California's commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and public service.

At 3,259 acres in size, Blue Oak Ranch Reserve sprawls across the steep slopes of Mount Hamilton just east of urban San Jose. Streams on the ranch support healthy stands of riparian vegetation in addition to aquatic species. At least 73 vascular plant families are found at the reserve, almost 80 percent of which are native. Plant communities include coast live oak woodland, riparian forest, chamise chaparral, Diablan sage scrub, and nonnative annual grassland. In addition, there are four threatened plant communities: valley oak woodlands, blue oak woodlands, wildflower field, and native perennial grasslands. Blue and valley oak woodlands have become quite rare in California, and few

are as protected from grazing and the encroachment of suburban development as those at Blue Oak Ranch. Grasslands are mainly dominated by exotic annuals, but some native perennial grasses are present.

Blue Oak Ranch Reserve habitats support at least 130 species of birds, approximately 41 species of mammals, 7 species of amphibians, more 14 species of reptiles, 7 species of fish, and hundreds of species of invertebrates. Reserve streams and 17 ponds are sensitive aquatic resource areas habitats that support most of the reserve's rare species. River otter, California tiger salamander, foothill yellow-legged frog, and red-legged frog can all be found along reserve waterways. Riparian areas are utilized by more than ten species of neotropical migratory birds, including flycatchers, warblers, and vireos.

Some of the species on the property have been listed as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act by the California Fish and Game Commission, yet their survival is threatened by other species onsite. The reserve actively manages and controls invasive, non-native species such as wild pig and American bullfrog to help protect and sustain native species.

We hope you will join us to learn more!

More Information

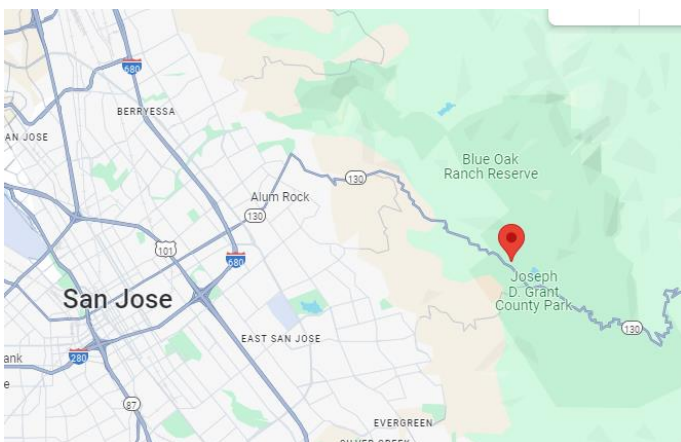
Blue Oak Ranch Reserve website: <https://ucnrs.org/reserves/blue-oak-ranch-reserve/>

Driving Directions

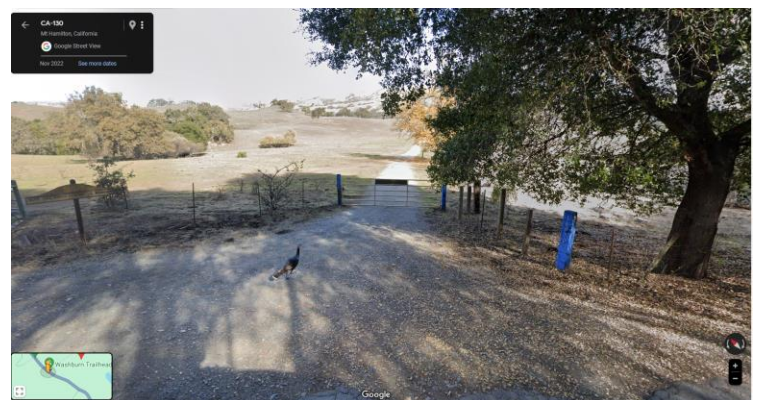
From the intersection with Alum Rock Avenue, proceed south on Highway 130 (Mt. Hamilton Road) for 6.7 miles until you reach two metal gates on the left, known as the Washburn Trailhead.

Please drive slowly on reserve roads and avoid wildlife collisions. Be especially conscientious of small reptiles and amphibians.

Area Map



Gate Entrance on CA-130



See Google Map at <https://goo.gl/maps/s4w9WS7coqf8DJAz7>