UCSC Campus Natural Reserve

SS

Seep Zone

This area's unique bedrock geology and soils create seeps that form the headwaters of Jordan Gulch and Moore Creek, as well as sandy areas supporting knobcone pine forest, transitional chaparral, and stands of dwarf redwoods.

West Marshall Field WMF

A mix of coastal priarie and mixed evergreen forest, this section of the reserve abuts Wilder Ranch State Park and features a few Mima Mounds, spring wildflowers, and mixture of oak, madrone, redwood, and Douglas-fir.

East Slope

Dwarf redwoods, chinquapin, mixed evergreen forest, and transitional chaparral characterize this small section of reserve perched on the edge of the San Lorenzo River watershed. This area also supports spring-fed ravines.

SS Seven Springs

The origin of many springs, this area is home to the mixed evergreen and redwood forests of the Forest Ecology Research Plot (FERP), and includes the headwaters of Cave Gulch as well as an adjacent patch of chaparral.

CG/W Cave Gulch/Wilder

Steep redwood ravines characterize this section of reserve, where California giant salamanders breed, fetid adder's tongues bloom, and you can find water year-round. Mixed evergreen forest covers upland areas west of Empire Grade.

UMC Upper Moore Creek

Footbridges span this ravine, allowing us to pass through its redwood, tanoak, and California bay canopy. Despite its name, this creek runs only during winter storms, and then passes underground, emerging in Lower Moore Creek.

LMC Lower Moore Creek

This diverse area features forested ravines, springs, riparian zones, and grassland, and is frequented by animals such as bobcats and the federally-threatened red-legged frog. The Arboretum co-manages much of this area.

The Triangle

WMF



This small corner of reserve sits along Empire Grade across from the Arboretum, and features a small slice of grassland and sprawling oaks above dense tangles of poison oak and the last portion of Moore Creek on UCSC property.