



Established in 1978, the Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve protects roughly 4,200 acres of diverse wilderness habitats including coastal scrub, grassland, chaparral, sage scrub and redwood, oak and pine forests. Directly adjacent to the terrestrial reserve is the Big Creek State Marine Protected Area which has protected kelp forests, reef fish and marine mammals since 1994. Our mission is to promote research, education, conservation policy and stewardship through the protection and management of the natural environment.

Research

While a wide variety of academic pursuits are possible at Big Creek, our core research program has two facets: the connections among watershed, stream and kelp forest habitats and invasive species management. Current research topics include: steelhead trout ecology, sudden oak death, serpentine plants, kelp forest monitoring, rockfish surveys, land-sea connectivity and lead poisoning in bird scavengers.

Education

Big Creek's terrestrial and marine reserves are utilized by courses from a broad range of UC and Cal State institutions. Classes include: marine and terrestrial ecology, scientific diving, entomology, geology, conservation and natural history as well as science writing, photography and landscape studies.

Public Service

Big Creek's reserves help to preserve biodiversity and conserve genetic resources by protecting natural communities and rare, threatened, or endangered species for further study. In addition, our staff, interns and researchers provide technical consultation on such important community concerns as watershed protection, invasive species management and endangered species recovery.



For more information or to find out how you can help please contact the Reserve Director, Mark Readdie
Phone: (831) 667-2543
Email: bigcreek@ucsc.edu
Website: ucreserve.ucsc.edu/bigcreek





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