

Blue Oak Ranch Reserve

Operated by UC Berkeley as part of the Natural Reserve System

RULES AND SAFETY INFORMATION

— Access —

This document lays out expectations and guidelines for contractors, residents, resident's guests, lease holders, UCNRS staff, delivery and utility companies. These "exempt users" are expected to:

1. Provide phone, text or email notification to the Reserve Manager in advance of visits;
2. Ensure that guests fill out liability waivers (Available from manager or the Cedar Barn Lobby);
3. Follow rules and safety guidelines outlined in this document;
4. Observe posted speed limits to minimize dust and protect wildlife;
5. Protect the Reserve's security by not sharing the gate code;
6. Request permission to visit the Reserve outside of business hours.

Access for all others (researchers, educators, volunteers, the general public) is managed by advanced reservation using the UCNRS online reservation system (<http://rams.ucnrs.org>).

— Facilities —

BLUE OAK RANCH RESERVE is one of seven NRS Reserves administered by UC Berkeley. The property is located in the Diablo Range east of San Jose and encompasses 3280 acres of oak savanna and oak woodland habitat. Administrative and lodging facilities are located at a centrally located Field Station.

Bathrooms are located at the northwest corner of the Cedar Barn and are accessible through an outside door. If others are using the reserve, the only bathroom is in the main office accessible through the porch. All other facilities are restricted except by arrangement.

Password-free WiFi is available near the facilities. Cell service is generally spotty on the Reserve but may be obtained on hilltops and ridgelines.

— Rules and Regulations —

- Smoking is prohibited on the reserve except in personal vehicles.
- No pets are permitted except dogs working cattle under the direct supervision of the cattle tenant.
- No firearms are allowed (even with a concealed weapons permit) unless authorized as part of our land stewardship program.
- No fires except by express permission and with direction from staff.
- No off-road travel. Park in designated parking areas; not in tall grass – catalytic converters can start fires.

- Gates must be left as they were found (e.g, if a gate is closed and locked, close and lock it after passing).
- Do not disturb reserve operations, residents, livestock, or scientific research.
- No collecting of any kind (biological, mineral, cultural/archeological) without a permit.
- Report trespassers, vandalism, loose cows, unusual wildlife sightings, etc. to the office.
- Be vigilant and use extreme caution when using the Reserve during fire season. Report smoke/fires and any suspicious behavior.

— Covid-19 Guidelines —

See attached Covid-19 Guidelines for the full set of requirements in place for reducing the spread of the virus.

- ALL USERS must receive advanced authorization to come to BORR to complete work. Requests to visit must include a detailed work schedule, justification, and safety plan and be made 48 hours in advance of visit.
- Those who receive authorization are asked to use remote communication (such as texting) to inform **Zac Harlow (307) 760-8031** and/or **Zac Tuthill (406) 599-4751** of their arrival and departure.
- Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) including face masks (N-95 or cloth) are required along with adherence to CDC guidelines on social distancing and personal hygiene. Face masks must be worn indoors at all times.
- Staff have adopted **enhanced cleaning protocols** to disinfect door knobs and shared bathroom spaces daily. Individuals are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer to clean surfaces they come in contact with before and after touching them (e.g. the gate keypad).

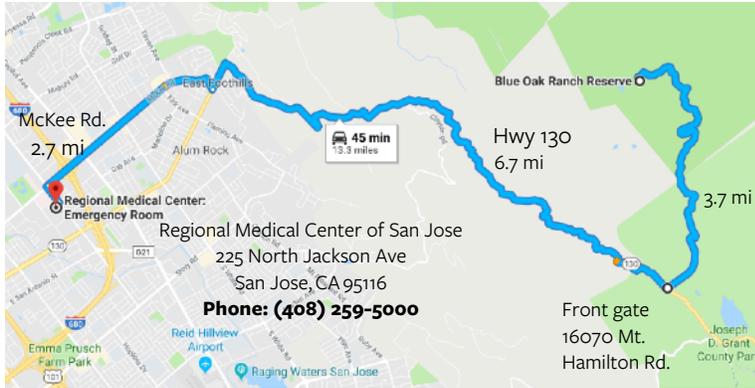
— Emergency Contact Information —

In case of Emergency, **dial 911** from your cell phone. If the internet is down or you are away from the facilities, high ridgetops almost always have cell coverage.

After summoning help, contact **Zac Harlow (307) 760-8031** or **Zac Tuthill (406) 599-4751**. Staff residences are located 200 m north of the main facilities.

Campus Dispatch (non-emergency): (510) 642-6760

The nearest hospital is Regional Medical Center of San Jose, (408) 259-5000. Notify staff if you need medical attention.



Scan QR code for the Hospital location

Fire. Call 911 to report a fire.

If you hear 3 blasts from an airhorn, move quickly to the Assembly Area in the triangle island next to the parking lot (see Facilities Map). We may shelter in place to let a grass fire pass or evacuate the Reserve. YOU must decide if you feel safe to evacuate the Reserve. Perform an accurate head count of people in your group.

Earthquake. Gather all persons to the Assembly Area in the triangle island next to the parking lot (see Facilities Map). Check automobile or portable radio and internet for emergency information. Be prepared for aftershocks. Stay at the reserve until it is safe to travel home. Landslides may have damaged evacuation route roads. Do not use the Secondary Evacuation Route which is very prone to landslides. Drive slowly and do not stop at the base of steep slide-prone slopes.

Reserve staff will shut off propane at the top of all three propane tanks (see Facilities Map).

Evacuation Routes

Primary Evacuation Route (95% of evacuation scenarios): Exit south, the way that you came in. You can reach San Jose by turning right at Mt. Hamilton Rd. (Hwy 130) and proceeding to Alum Rock Rd. or by turning left and proceeding 0.8 miles to Quimby Rd.

Secondary Evacuation Route (Wildfire on Primary Route only): Drive north from the facilities to the green gate (same lock combination as front gate). Proceed down Falls Rd. to Alum Rock Park. The gate at the back of the park will likely be open in the event of a wildfire, otherwise you will need to contact park rangers for assistance.

— Potential Hazards —

Because BORR is a wildland environment located some distance from urban facilities, precautions for potential hazards should be taken, similar to those for a back-country hike.

Potential hazards include, but are not limited to, the following:

Rugged Terrain. BORR is a wildland environment. There are downed logs, unstable rocks, steep slopes, cliffs, ground squirrel holes, steep and narrow roads, and many other potential hazards. Use caution and good judgment.

Rattlesnakes. The western rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*) is common throughout the Reserve from March to November. It is found in grassland, chaparral, oak woodlands, and around buildings. If someone in your group is bitten, alert staff and call ahead to the hospital (408) 259-5000 so they can prepare antivenin for your arrival. Use extreme caution when reaching to places not readily visible and walking over rocks, logs, or in tall grass. Long pants and hiking boots are recommended. Carry a cell phone.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE, HANDLE OR MOVE RATTLESNAKES. Staff may choose to move snakes that are in or around buildings.

Ticks and Lyme disease: Ticks on the reserve may carry Lyme disease and routine body-checks for ticks are advised. If bitten, monitor symptoms and consult with a physician. Ticks are especially common in spring and summer but can be picked up throughout the year.

Poison Oak. Poison oak is common in riparian areas and shaded north-facing slopes. May be avoided. If exposed to the leaves or stem of a poison oak plant (even if the plant is barren of foliage) wash affected areas with dish soap or Tech-Nu.

Mountain Lions. BORR is ideal mountain lion habitat and we routinely take pictures of them with our game cameras or see evidence of their presence like tracks and scat. Lions keep their distance and rarely attack humans, however, take actions that further decrease your risk by hiking with others, make noise and if confronted, throw things and yell. Do not run.

Hantavirus. This is a potentially fatal disease caused by a virus carried by deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*). Hantavirus is transmitted through the body fluids of the mouse and can become airborne when feces and urine build up in large quantities and are then disturbed. Keep surfaces clean and report infestations to staff. Do not handle live or dead rodents or their feces or urine.

Signs and symptoms of Hantavirus: Mild flu-like symptoms (muscle ache, slight fever, and lethargy), usually two to six weeks after exposure to the virus. Acute respiratory distress may follow. If you experience flu-like symptoms and believe you may have had contact with rodents within the last six weeks, contact your physician immediately or go to the emergency room.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus. The virus is primarily spread between people during close contact. Recommended measures to prevent infection include frequent hand washing, maintaining physical distance from others, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and keeping unwashed hands away from the face. Those infected with the virus may develop flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, body aches, fatigue, and shortness of breath. On average it takes 5–6 days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show, however it can take up to 14 days. People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should alert their supervisor and self-isolate. Seek medical attention if you have a fever, a cough, and difficulty breathing.