The UC San Diego Ecological Reserve is a natural resource that benefits people and wildlife. While at UC San Diego, students, faculty, and staff can take advantage of this campus amenity. The Ecological Reserve provides a place for recreation, education, nature appreciation, wildlife viewing opportunities, photography, and fresh air, but the campus also provides stewardship of this environment.

The purpose of this flyer is to inform the UC San Diego community about the Ecological Reserve and also raise awareness of the sensitive biological resources living within it.

Visit the Natural Resources Management web page at http://physicalplanning.ucsd.edu/environmental/nrm.html for more information on the management and maintenance of the Ecological Reserve.

Education
Many native plants and animals can be found in the Ecological Reserve and some are listed as threatened or endangered. The Ecological Reserve is a key master planning principle of the UC San Diego Long Range Development Plan. The Ecological Reserve can be used for research and education that promotes the understanding and protection of biological resources.

Recreation
Hiking, jogging or walking within the Ecological Reserve is encouraged but it is important to stay on defined trails so that delicate biological resources are not degraded by foot traffic. When using the trails be aware that you are sharing the area with species that are a natural part of this ecosystem including rattlesnakes.

Stewardship
The majority of the native habitat on the UCSD campus resides in the Ecological Reserve. Some ways you can get involved and help maintain the functions and values of this natural open space area follow.

Keep it Clean! - Please help keep the Ecological Reserve healthy by disposing of trash in receptacles. If you see trash in the reserve, please help out by disposing of it or call Facilities Management at (858) 534-2930. Discarding yard waste into the reserve is strictly prohibited. Hazardous materials including vehicle fuel and oil, coolants, household cleaning products, paints and solvents are detrimental to the Ecological Reserve ecosystem. Please call Environmental Health and Safety at (858) 534-3660 if you observe illegal dumping of hazardous materials.

Good vs. Bad Plants - The Ecological Reserve contains native vegetation and habitat for wildlife. Some non-native plants such as California Pepper Trees, Pampas Grass, Fountain Grass, and various iceplants are highly invasive and destructive to these native plant communities. Therefore, it is important that all landscaping near these areas include only native or non-invasive plants.

Native Flora and Fauna
Most of the Ecological Reserve is Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub habitat with chaparral, grasslands and wetlands. These habitats, unique to southern California, support many sensitive plants and animals. The health and integrity of these habitats are critical to ensure the survival of threatened and endangered species, some of which are present in our Ecological Reserve (i.e. Dudleya brevifolia). Habitat protection is not only important for the sensitive plants and animals present here but also ensures the beauty and serenity of our neighborhood.

The Coastal California Gnatcatcher is a year round coastal sage scrub resident. It is sensitive to human disturbance, excessive noise, and predation by cats. Its breeding season is from mid-February through August. Take (to harass, harm, pursue, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, etc.) of this species is a violation of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and can result in fines and/or incarceration.

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES
Following these simple guidelines will ensure that the Ecological Reserve remains a healthy and valuable asset to the UC San Diego campus.

1. Stay on defined trails.
2. Respect wildlife.
3. Leave native plants in place.
4. Take trash out with you.
5. Keep noise levels to a minimum.