

## UC Natural Reserve System Reserve Use Metrics and Definitions

### Background

In late Fall 2016, the Council of the Vice Chancellors for Research (VCRs) of the University of California and Vice President for Research & Graduate Studies asked the UC Natural Reserve System (UC NRS) to compile a report illustrating reserve use and how that varies across the 39 protected areas that constitute the system. A UCNRS metrics working group comprised of five members conducted a series of meetings to address the VCRs' request and developed a report containing a series of metrics characterizing UC NRS reserves. The report was distributed to all UC NRS reserve managers and feedback on the proposed metrics, associated definitions of the metrics and suggested guidelines for collecting metrics information using RAMS was gathered from all UC NRS staff and the University-wide Advisory Committee.

### Metrics

The working group has incorporated the feedback from both the reserve managers and the University-wide Advisory Committee and proposes that the following variables be utilized for metrics reports going forward:

1. Users
2. User Days
3. Facilities
4. Publications

Users and User Days represent use of a reserve. Facilities and Publications represent the assets and academic output of a reserve, respectively.

### Definitions

In the process of determining which metrics should be reported, we received feedback from across the UC NRS that there was a need to standardize how the use variables, Users and User Days, are defined and thus how that data is collected across reserves. In response, the UC NRS Metrics Working Group developed a set of definitions for User and User Days. The definitions below represent our recommendations based on extensive feedback from both the UC NRS managers and the Universitywide Advisory Committee.

#### I. Reserve Use

A. Reserve use will be tracked in two ways:

1. *Users* — The number of unique individuals who visited a reserve
2. *User days* — The number of days that users spent at a reserve

B. Type of reserve use falls under one of three general categories:

1. *Research* – For the purpose of carrying out field or laboratory based research applications under any discipline. Also includes conferences, symposia, academic meetings or lab retreats of research groups.

2. *University-level class* – For the purposes of university-level instruction.
3. *Public Service* – All other uses including, but not limited to, public use, community events, administrative meetings, fundraising and development activities, monitoring for species status & adaptive management, K–12 classes, other classes, docents, volunteers, agency use, and non-research NGO use.

## II. Definitions of User and User Day

A. A **User** is a person physically setting foot on a reserve or reserve-managed area in order to utilize the resources provided by a reserve.

B. A **User Day** is qualified by any portion of a day (1 minute to 24 hours) at a reserve, and includes the following:

1. Day Use
2. Overnight Use
  - a. One overnight stay counts as two user days
  - b. Overnight use includes utilizing accommodations even without actual \*use\* of the habitat or lab facilities at a reserve.
1. Multiple Project Use
  - a. Because RAMS is project based, time spent on different projects on the same day can count as multiple user days.

## III. Activities that qualify as users and user days

- A. Research activity
- B. Instructional, classroom or teaching activity
- C. Public outreach activities with a broad range of user types including but not limited to:
  1. Reserve event attendees
  2. Community groups or members
  3. Local representatives
  4. Elected officials
  5. University administrators
  6. Donors and donor prospects
  7. Volunteers
  8. Docents
  9. Agency Representatives
- D. Site visitation by users or potential users to scope for future visits.
- E. NRS staff time does get counted if NRS staff is carrying out work on behalf of a research project, class, or stewardship activity which is beyond the definition of their role as an NRS staff member (i.e., as a researcher or instructor, given that research or instruction is not a part of their job duties).

## IV. Activities that do NOT qualify as users and user days

- A. Activities that do not qualify as users or user days:
  1. The length of time that experimental equipment, including digital instrumentation, or materials are deployed.

2. Construction crews/contractors
3. Delivery people/Deliveries
4. Friends/family of NRS staff visiting
5. Grounds keeping/maintenance and facilities upkeep (by NRS staff or contracted services)
6. Caterers
7. Inspections
8. Residential staff (non-work time)