Reserve Steward, Big Creek Reserve

The Natural Reserve System (NRS) at the University of California, Santa Cruz invites applications for the position of Reserve Steward at Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve. Big Creek Reserve is located 50 miles south of Monterey on the Big Sur coast. It is remote, rugged, and operates off the grid in a rural setting. Much like a museum or library, Big Creek functions as an extension to the University’s on-campus laboratories and classrooms to support academic research and teaching. The facilities include an extensive network of roads and trails, a classroom, staff office, two steward residences, two researcher cabins, three workshops, and four campgrounds. The reserve has a mesh network for scientific data collection, a wireless internet network, VHF radio repeaters, a teaching collection, a research database, and a library.

Under direction of the Resident Reserve Director, and overseen by the Lead Reserve Steward, the Reserve Steward performs complex operations at Big Creek Reserve and Circle M Ranch. In support of academic researchers and educators, the Reserve Steward ensures the quality and proper function of the Reserve through design, logistics and implementation of specific ongoing, seasonal and new projects; carries out the maintenance of any and all facilities, including visitor buildings and overnight accommodations and their associated infrastructure (power, water, and safety equipment), trails, roads, defensible space and grounds; assists the Reserve Director in the planning and designing of facilities upgrades to meet, and improve on, user-based needs; trains and orients reserve employees; and advises reserve users of the potentialities of various specimens for study and research projects. These tasks require independent contributions based on a working knowledge and application of multiple skilled and technical trades as well as experience with research support in an academic setting. The Reserve Steward is also expected to carry out natural history observations; contribute to archival programs by documenting additions to species lists, historical sites and other landscape features; assist the Reserve Director to determine the need for new operational resources to be engineered in the field or by purchase; represent the reserve to the general public in matters concerning the reserve and its lands, operations and facilities; lead groups of scientists and students in the field or direct the material aspects of their installation of monitoring studies and scientific equipment; lead members of the public during outreach events such as volunteer work days and docent tours; and support on-site fundraising and donor relations efforts.

The Reserve Steward is expected to live on the reserve, work a flexible schedule, be available outside of normal working hours, and be in charge when the Reserve Director is absent. The Reserve Steward may, at times, oversee variable-time staff, outside contractors and volunteer work crews. The rugged living and working conditions require a high level of personal integrity including the ability to sustain professionalism among a small crew of colleagues. Storms, landslides, floods, wildfires and highway closures can result in physical isolation for extended periods of time. Of critical importance is a heightened awareness of safety as this is essential when working in a location far from emergency services. Significant creativity and novel solutions are often needed to respond to extraordinary problems that often have an unusual degree of difficulty requiring the use of a wide variety of tools and using on-site materials to
fabricate and assemble materials necessary for daily reserve operations. An appreciation for, and support of the scientific and educational mission of the NRS is required.

See the full job posting and qualifications at UCSC’s [hiring site](#) and search for Job #1909246. The initial review date is January 5, 2020. Inquire with Mark Readdie, Resident Director-Big Creek Reserve. Email: readdie@ucsc.edu, 831-667-2543.

The University of California Natural Reserve System (NRS) is a unique assemblage of 39 protected wildland sites throughout California. The reserves encompass nearly all of the state’s major ecosystems, preserved in as undisturbed a condition as possible to support University-level research and teaching programs. The NRS is a Trustee Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, and UC manages the NRS resources in the Public Trust. The five Natural Reserve sites that form the UC Santa Cruz unit are spread along 60 miles of the central coast: Año Nuevo Island Reserve (25 acres), Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve (8,000 acres), Ford Ord Natural Reserve (606 acres), Younger Lagoon Reserve (26 acres), and the UCSC Campus Natural Reserve (400 acres). Each reserve has unique research and teaching opportunities, physical conditions and constraints, regional and local political considerations, and funding and administration issues.