

Western Ecological Research Center <http://www.werc.usgs.gov>

Point Reyes Field Station

The Point Reyes peninsula is geologically distinct from adjacent areas of Marin County since it is part of the Pacific Plate which is moving north along the San Andreas Fault. The flora and fauna of Point Reyes reflect the geological and climatic uniqueness of the area and the resulting habitat diversity.

The Point Reyes Field Station is located at Point Reyes National Seashore, a National Park Service area that encompasses 74,000 acres (114 square miles) of dunes, sandy and rocky beaches, coastal prairie, Douglas-fir and Bishop pine forests, chaparral and wilderness lakes. About one fourth of the national seashore is a pastoral zone with both dairy and beef cattle, and over 23,000 acres are in designated wilderness.

The lead scientist and staff at this field station address resource issues of concern for client agencies including the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, and California Department of Fish and Game.

Current research focuses primarily on the distribution and status of declining amphibians throughout the non-desert parts of California. Most of the field work takes place in the Sierra Nevada and the California Coast range, including Point Reyes. Research on the causative factors for amphibian declines includes the role of contaminants and introduced predators. In addition, the Point Reyes Field Station is working with biologists in China to evaluate declining populations of amphibians on the Qinghai-Xizang plateau in the Sichuan province of China.

Other research projects include ecological studies of bats, the development of inventory and monitoring techniques, and the ecology and breeding behavior of the California red-legged frog, a federally threatened species.



G. Fellers

Lead Scientist

Gary M. Fellers, Ph.D., Research Biologist—Amphibians and reptiles.

- Ecology of western amphibians
- Ecology of island populations of reptiles
- Ecology of bats
- Standardized survey techniques for amphibians
- Inventory and Monitoring techniques for amphibians, reptiles, and mammals

For more information, contact:

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