



Mendocino College Coastal Field Station

23008 N Hwy 1, Point Arena, CA 95468

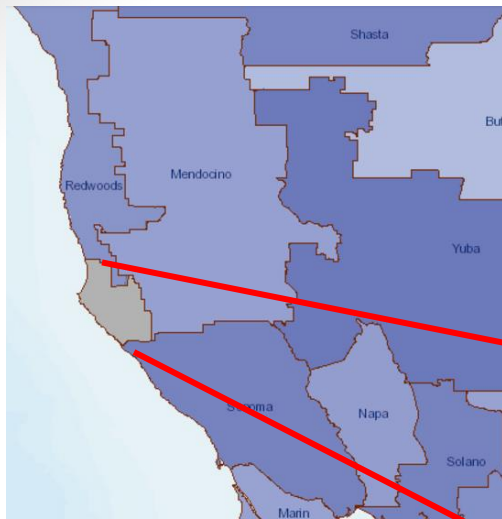


Mendocino College Main Campus in Ukiah

Lake Center, Lakeport

North County Center, Willits

Coast Center, Fort Bragg



CA Community College Districts



US Army Air Corps 1945-1950
US Coast Guard 1950-1981



LORAN Signal Station and Coast Guard Offices

- **Won in a competitive process from U.S. Dept. of Education in 1981**
- **Initial infrastructure work**
 - **Houses turned into dormitories**
 - **Shop turned into class meeting space**
- **Evaluated by the Federal Government for a period of 30 years**
- **Mendocino College awarded the property in 2011**
- **Decision to sell Conservation Easement to BLM in late 2014**



- **Mendocino College Coastal Field Station name formalized in 2015**
- **Friends of the Mendocino College Coastal Field Station and Natural Sciences, an Affiliate of the MC Foundation, since 2015**

Key Points in History



Protected and relatively pristine for 35+ years

Geology



Biology



MESA



Primary College Uses

Natural Science

Life and physical sciences

Scientific method

Natural science versus social science

Natural science versus pseudoscience

Environmental Awareness

Biodiversity and native species

Natural hazards

Environment appreciation

21st Century Issues

Anthropogenic climate change

Invasive species

Ecosystem degradation

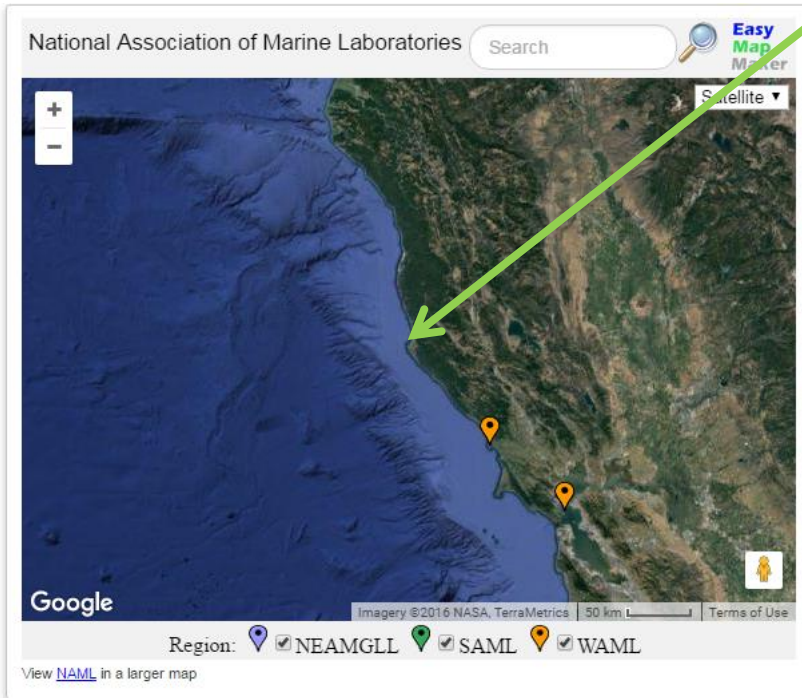
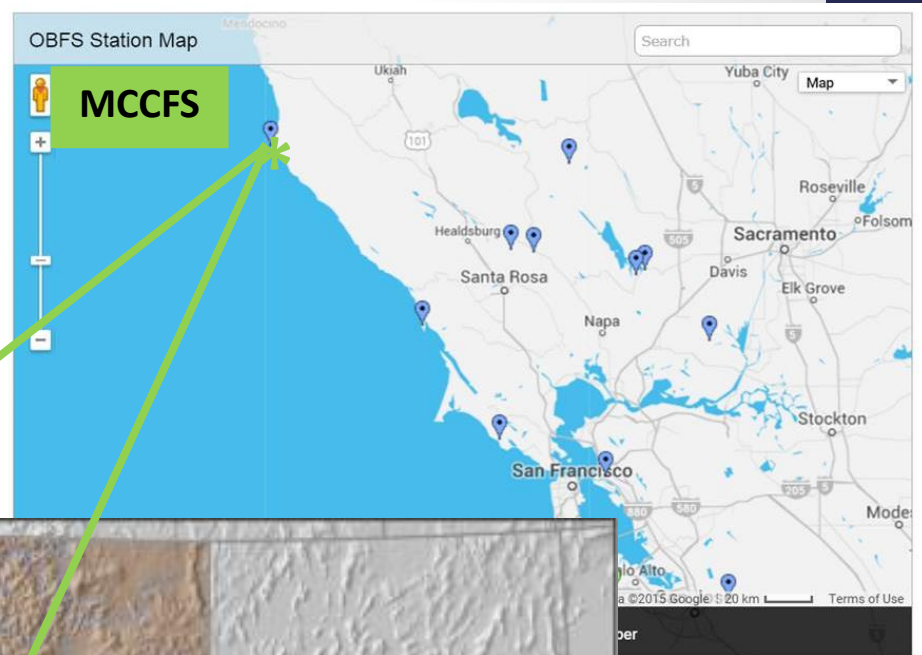
Ocean acidification

Fostering our Future Through Experiential Inquiry: A hands-on approach to developing an environmentally aware society

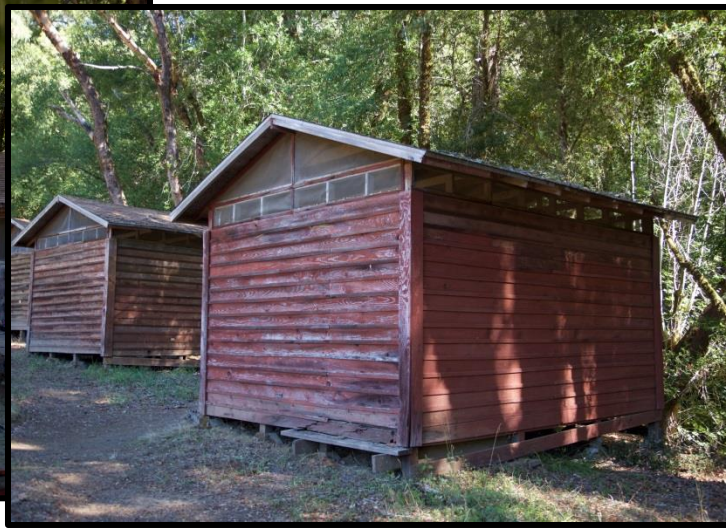


PBO GPS & CeNCOOS CODAR on site since 2006

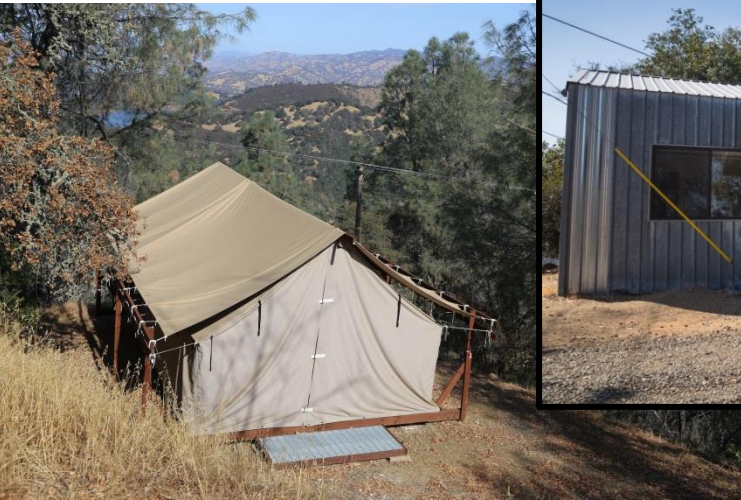
- OBFS
- WAML
- UC Natural Reserve System



Local Field Station Networks



**Angelo Reserve
UCNRS: Berkeley**



**Quail Ridge Reserve
UCNRS: Davis**

Example Northern California Field Stations

Infrastructure work:

~11 years ago

New windows throughout houses

~ 7 years ago → Architectural Review

~ 4 years ago

Major roof repair on House 1

Bathroom remodeling of Houses 1 and 2

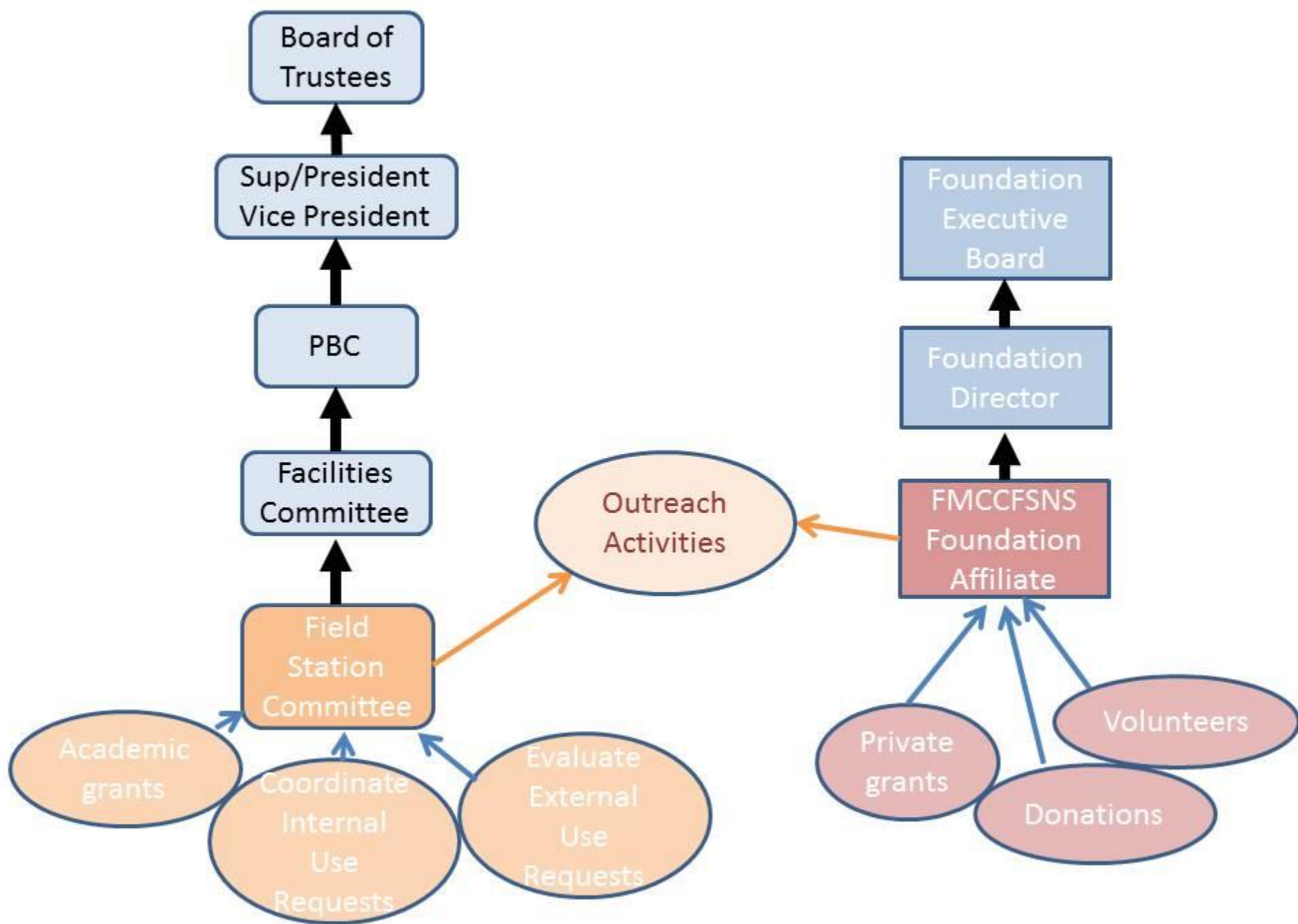
Dry laboratory room set up

2016 → High speed WiFi (FurtherReach.Net)

Non-profit Friends group since 2015

NSF FSML Planning Grant 2015-2016

Recent Accomplishments



Mission:

To encourage student success in the Natural Sciences by protecting and supporting a unique educational resource that provides for innovative instruction at Mendocino College.

Vision:

The exceptional field learning experiences provided through use of the Mendocino College Coastal Field Station create unique learning communities that support student success through focusing on relevant 21st century issues. The FMCCFSNS endeavors to:

- preserve and protect the sensitive biological habitats of the Field Station,
- educate the public on restricted, managed access rather than open public access,
- support the Natural Sciences at Mendocino College by promoting college programs, recognizing that the college field station offers a unique facility that can be used to recruit students of STEM fields to begin their college education at Mendocino College.

Friends of the MC Coastal Field Station & Natural Sciences

Significance of Community College Recipient

Future Trends for Student Research at the CC

Council of Undergraduate Research

NSF Community College Research Initiative

Importance of the Planning Grant for Other Grants

Main Goals of the Planning Grant

Determine and incorporate best practices

Identify and develop partnerships

Develop 5-year Strategic Plan

National Science Foundation FSML Planning Grant

Improvements in Facilities, Communications, and Equipment at Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories (FSML)

Short Term → Deferred maintenance



Long Term ideas → Museum & Wet laboratory



Lots of Work to be Done

- **Foster high-impact experiential learning**
- **Welcome researchers from a broad spectrum of human inquiry**
- **Encourage community engagement in the enterprise of education**



MC Coastal Field Station Mission

- **MC college classes**
 - Science classes scheduled first when possible
 - Non-science classes encouraged
 - No minors
- **Approved external groups (online inquiry form)**
 - same rules + nominal fees
 - **Other college/university outings**
 - Educational field trips
 - Research-oriented field work
 - Non-profit educational/research groups
 - Citizen-scientist and community outreach

Using the MC Coastal Field Station

Mendocino College Programs

Biology and Earth Science Department field trips
MESA Program
Art Department *En Plein Air* excursions

College and University Programs

UC Santa Cruz PISCO researchers } MC Student Exposure to UC system
UC field Supercourse site visit }
Humboldt State University, PA Mountain Beaver studies } MC Student Involvement
University of Florida, Butterfly conservation work }
UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory → MC students taking summer marine bio classes

Non-Profit and Government Groups

Pacific Manta Research Group → MC student internship
Reef Check California → MC student coordinator
Greater Farallones Association → MC students exposed to citizen scientist program
US Geological Survey → Share findings with MC marine biology classes
CNPS Vegetation Sampling → In coordination with MC student botany work

Community Outreach

Annual Open House during Discover the Coast → MC Student helpers

Recent and Ongoing Usage

Mendocino College Programs

- Culinary Arts
- Sustainable Tech

Bureau of Land Management

- Cooperative agreement regarding practices on National Monument
- Follow same protocols for bio-surveys
- Compare biodiversity studies on and off monument lands
- Test and compare control methods for invasive species

Community and Non-Profit Groups

- Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
- California Native Plant Society
- Audubon Society
- Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Point Arena Gateway Group
- Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers, Inc.
- Coastal Native American groups
- K-12 educational outreach

Potential Collaborations

High School Outreach

- Coordinate an outing each year → MC student “docents”

California Native Plant Society and Audubon Society

- Periodic BioBlitz with MC student involvement
- Annual bird count with MC student involvement

Coast Guard Auxiliary

- Museum related to LORAN generators and technology → connect with MC classes

Native American outreach

- Land use history and coastal prairie botany → connect with MC classes

Community Outreach

- Participate in coastal community speaker series

Example Projects