With deer season opening on Saturday, Aug. 9 in many parts of Santa Barbara County, hunters are reminded that the 5,900-acre Sedgwick Reserve in the Santa Ynez Valley is an off-limits no-hunting zone.

The reserve, one of seven run by the University of California, Santa Barbara, is an outdoor education center and is protected from hunting under the California Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995. Violators face felony prosecution.

Since the reserve is frequently visited by university researchers, school children, and others, Reserve Director Michael Williams said the presence of hunting would create the potential for a serious accident.

UCSB Police, the California Department of Fish and Game, the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Department, and the U.S. Forest Service will cooperate to enforce the no-hunting regulations. In past years, arrests have been made and weapons confiscated in cases involving hunter trespassing, shooting across a roadway, shooting from a vehicle, public intoxication, and drunken driving.

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community
of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.