

# EBRPD Managed Grassland Study Design

Park District biologists are initiating a multi-year study to assess the distribution and abundance of common lizard species that occur in the grassland parks of the two-county area. The long-term goal of the lizard project is to identify the optimal level of grass cover (i.e., thatch) that is necessary to support a healthy and diverse lizard population within managed grasslands.

Grasslands are managed using a variety of techniques such as livestock grazing and prescribed fires. Grass thatch heights and densities are known to effect lizards' ability to forage and hide from predators. Lizards are an important prey species for many

animals including the state and federally threatened Alameda whipsnake and predatory birds like American Kestrels.



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Endangered Alameda whipsnake



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A fence lizard has been marked and is about to be released.



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Park staff and volunteers prepare a pitfall trap to funnel and capture lizards.

Study methods include live trapping using drift fencing (see left), pitfall traps and marking individual lizards to track their movements between trap sites. Several species of lizards and rodents have been trapped. The results of this unique study will aid in the development of adaptive management strategies for grasslands dwelling species.

## ***How you can make a tax-deductible donation to support the program:***

Please make check payable to the Regional Parks Foundation in support of the "Lizard Legionnaires Program" and send to the Regional Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 21074, Crestmont Station Oakland, CA 94620



East Bay Regional  
Park District

For information or to become a Wildlife Volunteer call or email Dave "Doc Quack" Riensche, Wildlife Resource Analyst at [docquack@ebparks.org](mailto:docquack@ebparks.org) or call Doc Quack at (510) 544-2319.