

The Clayton Ranch contains 1,035 acres in the rugged hills northeast of Mt. Diablo State Park. The property primarily supports oak woodlands, chaparral and annual grasslands, and it hosts threatened species including populations of California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, western pond turtle, and Alameda whipsnake.

Linking Landscapes

The Clayton Ranch property forms a critical link between open space at Mt. Diablo and East Bay

Park District land. It abuts permanent open space contiguous with Mt. Diablo State

Park and is one-half mile south of Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve. Linking these two major areas of open space means that the Clayton Ranch provides an essential corridor for wildlife.



The Clayton Ranch property.

Project Activities

The Clayton Ranch Resource Enhancement Project brought the District one step closer to owning the Clayton Ranch. West Coast Home Builders

purchased a conservation easement over a 38-acre



Clayton springtime wildflowers.

of a housing development (Oak Hills South Unit 5) in Pittsburg. Since the project would disturb 3,055

portion in the central area of Clayton Ranch to mitigate for impacts

linear feet of seasonal creek bed, West Coast Home Builders provided the District with \$114,000 to protect and enhance a similar amount of creek on the Clayton Ranch.

Quick Facts

Action: Land acquisition
Acres: 38
Funding: \$204,000
Provided by: West Coast Home Builders
Constructed: 2002
Target habitats: Riparian
Target species: Red-legged frog, Alameda whipsnake
Improvements: Removal of old stockpond, restoration of creekbed, planting of native vegetation.

Prior to the project, the 38-acre area contained a small stock pond in poor repair, a clogged spring, trash and debris, and a quantity of

non-native plant species. To enhance the area, the stock pond was removed, and the area restored to a creek bed. The perennial spring was improved to provide a water source for livestock, and the overflow would augment the water downstream to support California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander populations. Along the waterway, native riparian tree and shrub species were planted, and the area was fenced off to protect plantings. Noxious weeds, including artichoke thistle, were removed, and two road crossings were rebuilt. As the plants mature, the grasslands and riparian enclosure areas will be seasonally grazed to control non-native vegetation and manage its habitat value.

The Clayton Ranch Resource Enhancement Project helped the district purchase 38 acres of open space, assisting in the creation of a permanent link between

Mt. Diablo State Park and Black Diamond Mines Preserve.



Creekbed with native riparian vegetation and protected with fencing.