

Brushy Peak Regional Preserve is located in the Altamont Hills of northeastern Alameda County. The Republic Services Resource Enhancement Project



Constructed ponds provide habitat for the

expanded Brushy Peak Preserve through the purchase of a 290-acre conservation easement and enhanced

habitat values for such special-status species such as the red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and San Joaquin kit fox. This project was initiated because Republic Services' Vasco Road Landfill (VRL) desired to extend its operations into a 90-acre unfilled portion of the landfill. Because this expansion would impact wetlands and habitat for special-status species, including red-legged frog, tiger salamander and San Joaquin kit fox. Republic Services was required by state and federal regulations to protect and enhance 290 acres of similar habitat off-site.

### Bosley Ranch

Brushy Peak and surrounding areas contain suitable habitat for the species that were impacted by the landfill expansion.



Brushy Peak is one of Alameda County's more prominent natural landmarks.

VRL provided \$1.9 million to purchase a conservation easement on a 290-acre portion of the adjacent Bosley/Weaver Property at Brushy Peak. EBRPD had previously arranged to purchase the



California red-legged frog is abundant at Brushy Peak.

property in thirds, and Republic Services helped to fund the purchase of one third. The property is primarily annual grassland on steep hillsides, with seasonal and perennial streams running through the valleys. Smaller communities of alkali grassland, coast live oak woodland, oak-buckeye

savannah, and riparian wetland habitat increase the overall value and diversity of the site. It has a rich collection of native plant species, including at least four special-status plants. When the property was acquired, it needed a number of improvements. It contained creek beds that had been significantly impacted by road construction, water diversions, overgrazing and invasive non-native plants. The hillsides had been invaded by non-native thistles, and the roads and fences were in disrepair.



Stinkbells (*Fritillaria agrestis*) is a rare plant at Bosley.

### Infrastructure Improvements

A number of improvements were made in 2004-2005. The project provided new fence and road infrastructure. Republic installed 15,080 feet of fencing with access gates for monitoring and maintenance. The old eroded road was moved from the creek bed onto the



Invasive yellow star thistle.

side of a hill, so that wetland vegetation can begin growing. A number of obsolete fences, gates and collapsed structures were removed. Non-native plant populations, such as star thistle, were controlled.

### Habitat Improvements

Republic Services constructed two amphibian breeding ponds that have a total surface area of about 4.5 acres. Each pond has a shallow shelf and a deep central area, so that a ring of reeds and cattails will grow around the edge, but the center will remain open water. The largest amphibian populations on adjacent properties have been found in similar ponds. The ponds have a notched spillway for high water. They can be drained if predatory bullfrogs or fish establish. Since California ponds historically dry each summer, red-legged frogs can survive annual dry spells, but their bullfrog predators cannot. An endowment was created to fund long-term monitoring and maintenance.

### Importance



*Yerba mansa (Anemopsis californica) is an unusual plant at the Bosley property.*

The Bosley Ranch purchase combined the open space preservation goals of EBRPD with the mitigation needs of the VRL by acquiring

open space and restoring endangered species habitats. This project protects a wildlife corridor between the Los Vaqueros watershed and the Altamont Hills south of I-580; a connection that the Diablo Ridgeland Working Group named one of the ten most important linkages in the East Bay.



*Pond site one before (top) and after (bottom) provides about 3.0 acres of new amphibian habitat.*

For more information, contact Brad Olson at [bolson@ebparks.org](mailto:bolson@ebparks.org).

#### Quick Facts

Acquisition & Restoration

Acres: 290

Funding: \$2,820,350

Provided by: Republic Services

Construction: 2004-2005

Target habitats: Riparian, grassland, ponds.

Species: Red-legged frog, tiger salamander, kit fox.

Improvements: Constructed two large habitat ponds, protected native vegetation, removed exotic vegetation.