

Wildlife Habitat on East Bay Rangelands -Why Some Endangered Species Need Ranchers

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Remaining Rangeland



- Increased development = Less available space for wildlife
- Private and public rangelands provide habitat for wildlife species
- Wildlife need Bay Area Rangelands

Habitat Types & Listed Species found on East Bay Ranches

Grassland



















Oak Woodland











Oak Savannah















Chaparral (Scrub, Brush)





Rock Outcrops





Springs/Seeps



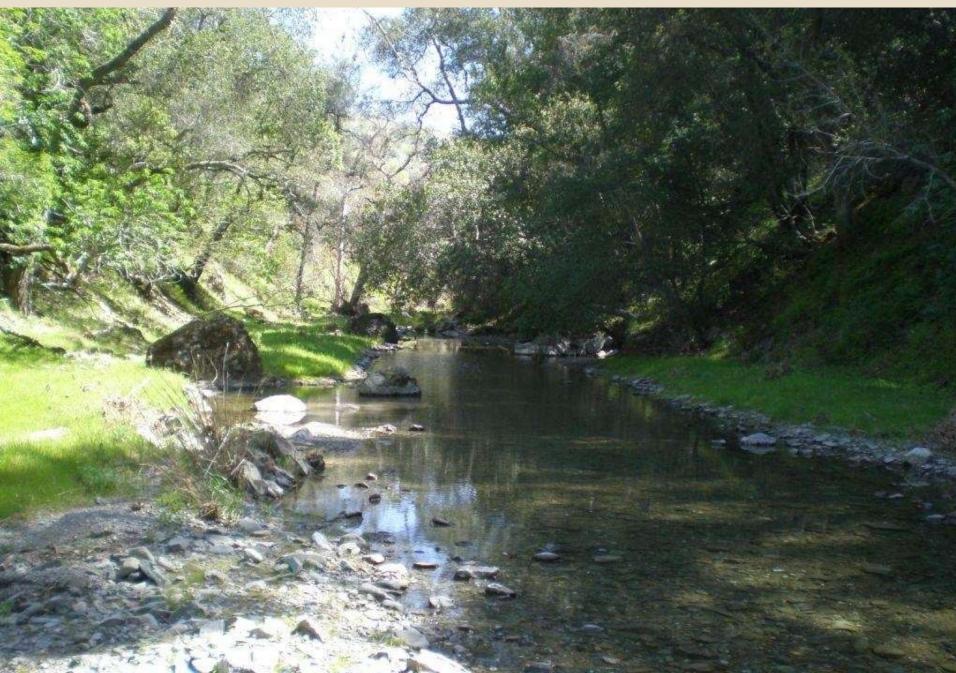


Perennial Wet Areas



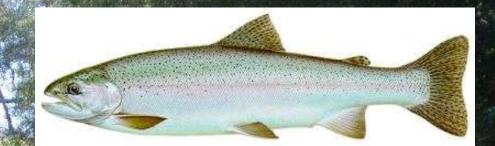


Creeks











Seasonal Wet Areas/Vernal Pools





Vernal Pools





Livestock Ponds





Habitat Focus: Livestock Ponds

California red-legged frog (CRLF) Rana draytonii







California tiger salamander (CTS) Ambystoma californiense

Type of Habitat

- Breeding
- Larval Development
- Year-Round for Frogs



Upland

• Don't forget about the importance of the uplands surrounding the ponds



CRLF & CTS Depend on Ranching

 Remaining habitat is mostly private ranches and grazed public lands where ranchers are lessees

 Livestock ponds on public and private rangeland have become crucial aquatic habitat for CRLF & CTS



Livestock Ponds as Habitat

- Approximately 800 ponds built in Alameda County between 1950s-1970s for livestock water
- Most were built with assistance from NRCS (formerly SCS)

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Stock Ponds Put Arid Livermore Hills To Good Use 123 internativ encould accord

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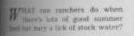
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Water Holes for Cattle

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had Conservation Service

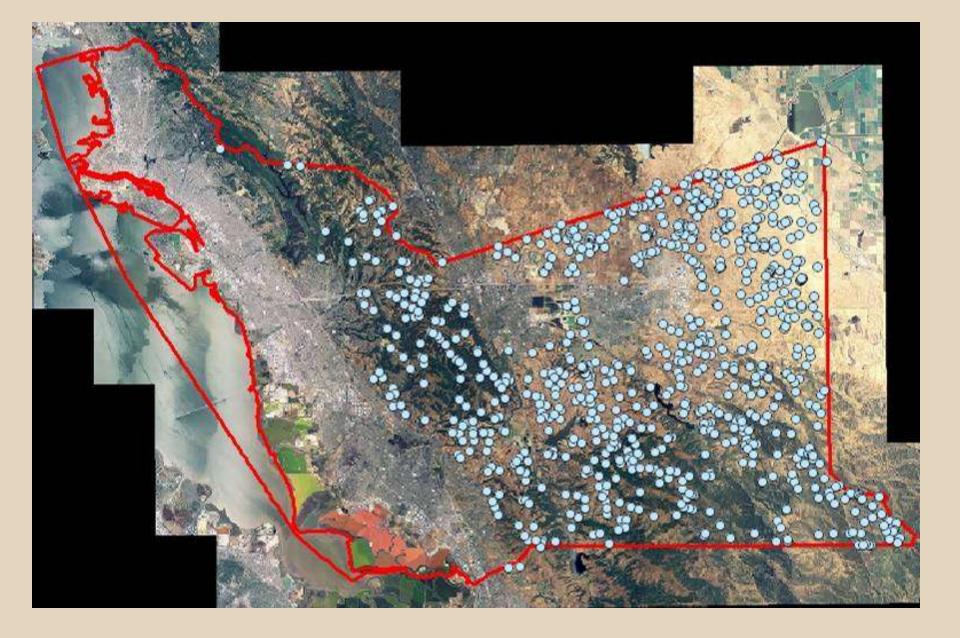
YES SIR, because on storp rangelands runoff from heavy rains is rapid and live streams don't list very long.

Along with new ponds come miles of poerse reads. These range "freeways" shorten the travel time for nattle in reaching grasslands and make for more uniform use of feed. Water stored in ponds, though of supsule size when compared to hig

Substitute for lost natural • breeding habitat



Ponds in Alameda County



Ponds Today

- Built to last 20 years, now 30-60 yrs old
- Many won't be around much longer unless repaired





Spillway Erosion

Pond Sedimentation

Ponds Today

- Historically, many ponds have been stocked with non-native, invasive species
 - Bullfrogs
 - Bass, Sunfish
 - Mosquito Fish
 - Crayfish
- Continued Presence



Ponds Today

 Pond habitat is starting to diminish because of sedimentation and spillway failure and the presence of invasive species



CRLF & CTS Need Ranchers

- Ponds need to be repaired and maintained for the species
- CRLF and CTS need the ponds more than ranchers and cows do
 - Ranchers often don't need to fix these ponds they have alternative sources of livestock water (springs, wells, tanks, and troughs)

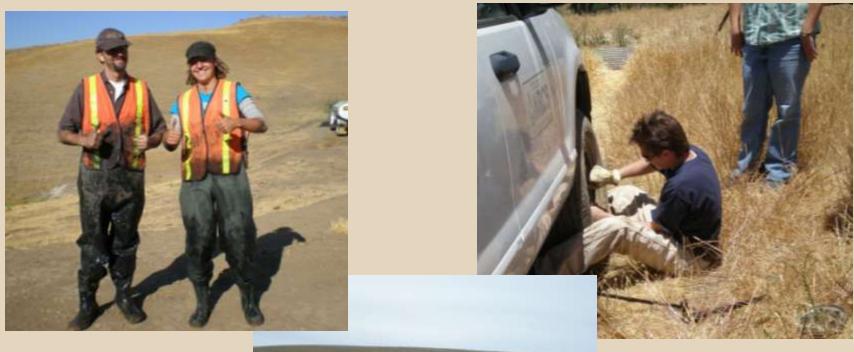




Challenges of Pond Repair for the Rancher

- Cost of pond repair (\$10,000 \$50,000+)
- The Regulatory Process Permits
- Fear of new land use restrictions
- Lack of technical guidance
 - NRCS standards and specs for pond repair, but not specifically for frog and salamander habitat
 - Lack of guidance for grazing to benefit the species

Challenges of Pond Repair for Agency Staff





Pond Repair (actually getting it done)

• We have worked with 9 Ranchers to implement 19 pond restoration projects since 2005



- Variety of tools used to address challenges
 - Funding Assistance
 - Permitting Assistance
 - Working closely with regulators
 - Safe Harbor Agreement
 - Pond Guidelines, Grazing Guidelines

Pond Repair - Before and After



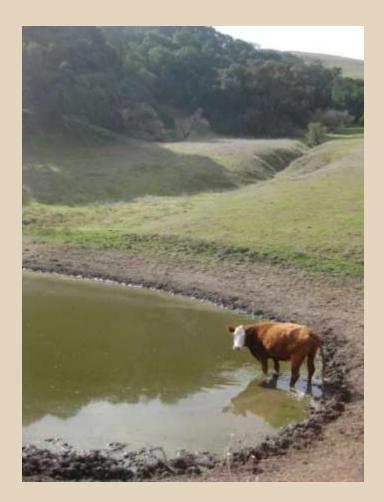
More Common Wildlife





Ranchers and Rangelands are Important to Species Recovery

- Studies on rangelands throughout CA are continuing to document the positive impact of managed grazing on wildlife habitat
- Public and Private rangelands in Alameda County provide essential habitat for our local wildlife populations
- Collaboration between Ranchers and Agencies can help all parties involved (ranchers, agencies, & wildlife)



Questions?

