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**Endangered Species Day:
Save Mount Diablo Buys Creek for Threatened Species**

Images: Link to download hi-res images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/go47fes3iupr54o/AAAoNpanVpDwFLpnmGlijocHpa>

Captions and credits are included in the photo file names.



This drought is a reminder that, despite the mountain's quick recovery from the Morgan Fire and current display of wildflowers, ultimately we all need water. Especially wildlife. Water sources for wildlife are hard to come by in our warm dry climate. But Save Mount Diablo has just added another 3,100 feet to their total of protected creek with the purchase of their newest property Big Bend.

The 51 acre property was named for its arcing section of Marsh Creek that will not only provide a water source for wildlife but also critical habitat for threatened species like the California red-legged frog which

has already been confirmed on the site. A pond on the property is also home to a Western pond turtle, another rare species. Rare species receive attention because of endangered species laws and because they're indicators of overall environmental conditions. "When we protect habitat for rare species many common species benefit" said Scott Hein, President of Save Mount Diablo's Board of Directors. California and the Bay Area both have among the largest numbers of rare species in the nation—as well as intense development pressure. "'Rare' means there's still time, but extinction is forever. A single species' disappearance can make a huge difference. Like the threads in a tapestry, the removal of one thread can unravel the whole system."

Beyond Big Bend's creek lies diverse habitat from the floodplain up to blue oak wooded hills. "The more types of habitat the land has, the more types of wildlife the land can support," said George Phillips the Land Conservation Manager for Save Mount Diablo. But according to Phillips, Big Bend is in transition right now. "The land is just beginning to reclaim its wildness after being the past location of a golf course and highly used horse pasture. A lot of the native plants have been cleared out." Native plants provide food and shelter for wildlife, Phillips explained, so returning native plants and removing non-native plants that compete for resources are a major step in restoring natural lands.

Because of Big Bend's history and diverse habitats, Save Mount Diablo says it has high potential to be restored to its natural native state. The preservation of this property is a great example of why Save Mount Diablo's work is even more critical today. "We were able to purchase Big Bend in a matter of weeks which allows us to move quickly to protect a property when the opportunity arises and care for the land until the time is right for an agency to bring it into their fold for long term protection and management," said Ron Brown Executive Director of Save Mount Diablo. Until then, you can join Save Mount Diablo for a tour of Big Bend on Sunday, June 1st. For more information, visit SaveMountDiablo.org.

Summary:

WHAT – Save Mount Diablo has just added another 3,100 feet to their total of protected creek with the purchase of their newest property Big Bend.

WHO –Save Mount Diablo is Walnut Creek based non-profit that works to protect and connect the Diablo wilderness for people and wildlife to enjoy.

WHERE – Big Bend is crossed by Marsh Creek on the east side of Mount Diablo.

WHEN – You can join Save Mount Diablo for a tour of Big Bend on Sunday, June 1st. For more information, visit SaveMountDiablo.org.

WHY - The 51 acre property was named for its arcing section of Marsh Creek that will not only provide a water source for wildlife but also critical habitat for threatened species like the Western pond turtle and California red-legged frog which have already been confirmed on the site. Because of Big Bend's history and diverse habitats, Save Mount Diablo says it has high potential to be restored to its natural native state.

Save Mount Diablo is a non-profit 501(c)(3) conservation organization, which has been preserving lands on and around Mount Diablo and educating the public to the mountain's natural values since 1971. Preserved lands have increased from 6,788 acres in one park to more than 110,000 acres in more than 40 parks and preserves. Save Mount Diablo continues to preserve, defend and restore the remainder of the mountain for people and wildlife to enjoy. Contact: Save Mount Diablo, telephone: (925) 947-3535, fax: (925) 947-0642, 1901 Olympic Blvd., Suite 320, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; www.SaveMountDiablo.org