

# The McKinleyville Land Trust Dow's Prairie Educational Wetland

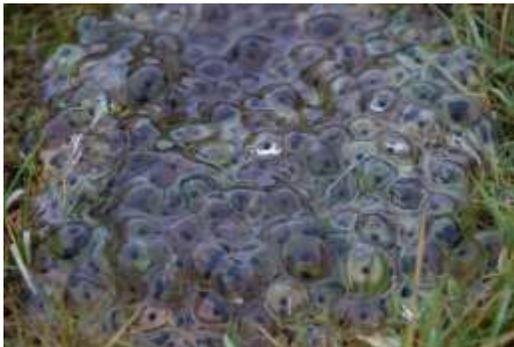


Great Egret

In 2008, the McKinleyville Land Trust acquired a seasonal wetland adjacent to Dow's Prairie Elementary School near the corner of Central Avenue and Grange Road in McKinleyville.



The 2.55-acre site includes a seasonal pond that usually fills with water in early winter and dries by late spring or early summer. In order to prevent destruction of frog eggs or sensitive habitat and to allow native plant restoration, the land trust has limited the public access to the pond.



Amphibian egg mass

## A Home for Frogs

This seasonal wetland provides crucial habitat for the egg, tadpole and adult stages of the Northern Pacific Chorus Frog (tree frog) and Northern Red-legged Frog.



Northern Red-legged Frog



Northern Pacific Chorus Frog

## Critical Habitat

The California Resources Agency estimates that only 5 percent of the state's original coastal wetlands remain undeveloped. The McKinleyville Land Trust hopes that preserving this critical habitat will help preserve the amphibians and native plants that inhabit the area and provide a sanctuary for local and migratory birds and wildlife.



## Be a Wetland Steward!

The MLTDPEW provides important habitat for many native plants and animals and so it's important to...

- educate yourself about wetland conservation
- tread lightly when visiting the wetland
- keep your pets away from the wetland & never release unwanted pets into the wild
- eradicate invasive plants from your own yard such as Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry & English ivy
- never pollute or use toxic pesticides & herbicides
- VOLUNTEER!

## Partial Plant List

<u>Native Species</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Wetland Community</u>
<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>	Spiraea	
<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	California Blackberry	
<i>Rhamnus purshiana</i>	Cascara	
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Sitka Spruce	
<i>Juncus</i>	Rush	*
<i>Carex</i>	Sedge	*
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	*

## Partial Wildlife List

<u>Native Species</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
<i>Rana aurora</i>	Northern Red-legged Frog	*SSC
<i>Pseudacris regilla</i>	Northern Pacific Chorus Frog	NONE
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis infernalis</i>	California Red-sided Gartersnake	*SSC
<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Great Egret	NONE
<i>Mammot americanum</i>	Mastodon	Extinct

\*Species of Special Concern (designated at risk species)

## FWS Schoolyard Habitat Program



A major part of the cost of restoring the wetland was paid for with a grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service under its Schoolyard Habitat Program to provide an outdoor classroom for Dow's Prairie School. The school is developing ways to integrate the pond and its many features into the school curriculum. In addition, the school has dedicated a portion of its garden for the students to learn native plant cultivation; students will transplant these plants in the outdoor classroom. With the help of partners in the community, the McKinleyville Land Trust volunteers will continue their effort to control invasive species and make trail improvements.



Community partners during restoration: Dow's Prairie School, YouthServe Americorps, CCC, Blue Ox Mills & School, HSU Natural Resource Club and McKinleyville Area Fund.

## Dow's Prairie Schoolyard Habitat

The wetland is a rare and precious resource for Dow's Prairie students and teachers. Since 2011, the MLT has provided specialist guest lecturers in ecology, history, cultural studies, art and more to Dow's students. The lecturers and school follow grade level appropriate curriculum according to the Science Content Standards for California Public Schools.



Wiyot Cultural Director Briannon Fraley talking about native plants & demonstrating traditional food processing

**Kindergarten—Reptiles and Amphibians** (similarities and differences in appearances of animals)

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade—Mammals** (different animals inhabit different environments, meeting their needs in different ways)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade—Birds/Soil** (animals have predictable life cycles/earth is made of materials that have distinct properties)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade—Insects** (adaptations in physical structure or behavior may improve chances of survival)

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade—Native/Non-Native Plants/Food Chains** (plants depend on environment for survival/producers, consumers and decomposers are all related for food chains and webs)

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade—Water/Micro-organisms** (water cycle and use of water by communities/organisms)

## Public Access

Due to the sensitive nature of the habitat, public and group access to the wetland must be by appointment. Volunteer days and educational events are semi-annual & TBA.



California Red-sided Gartersnake

## MLT DPEW History

In 2000, local attorney John Corbett originated a plan with the McKinleyville Land Trust to buy and conserve the wetland behind Dow's Prairie School. Concerned for the welfare of the site and its potential educational opportunities, then general manager of the North Coast Cooperative, Corbett wrote a grant to the Simpson Timber Foundation (now Green Diamond) seeking funds for the MLT to purchase the pond area from the Pettlon family. The Foundation awarded the MLT \$15,000 to buy the land, The Humboldt Area and Coop Foundations were instrumental with funding and getting the project off the ground, but it took several years of hard work by Corbett & the MLT to complete the purchase (2008).



## Donate

The McKinleyville Land Trust is a tax-exempt nonprofit public benefit corporation. Your donation will help preserve the MLT Dow's Prairie Wetland and be a gift to our children's future.

## Community Involvement

Restoration efforts are ongoing; the outdoor classroom will need on-going support from the community. If you are a parent, business owner or community member interested in volunteering as an educational guest lecturer, other expertise or as a steward on community workdays please contact the McKinleyville Land Trust.

## Contact

For more information about the McKinleyville Land Trust Dow's Prairie Educational Wetland or other land trust conservation efforts:

**707-839-LAND** [www.mlandtrust.org](http://www.mlandtrust.org)

**Credits:** Snake, egret, pond, tadpole & eggs by Allen Bird; Red-legged Frog by Pete Haggard. Chorus Frog, group photos and MLT Dow's Prairie Wetland brochure design by Nanette Kelley 2012.

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## McKinleyville Land Trust Dow's Prairie Educational Wetland



Frog by Zachary  
Dow's Prairie School

The McKinleyville Land Trust is a non-profit dedicated to the conservation of our local open spaces for their ecological, historical, agricultural, educational, recreational and scenic values.