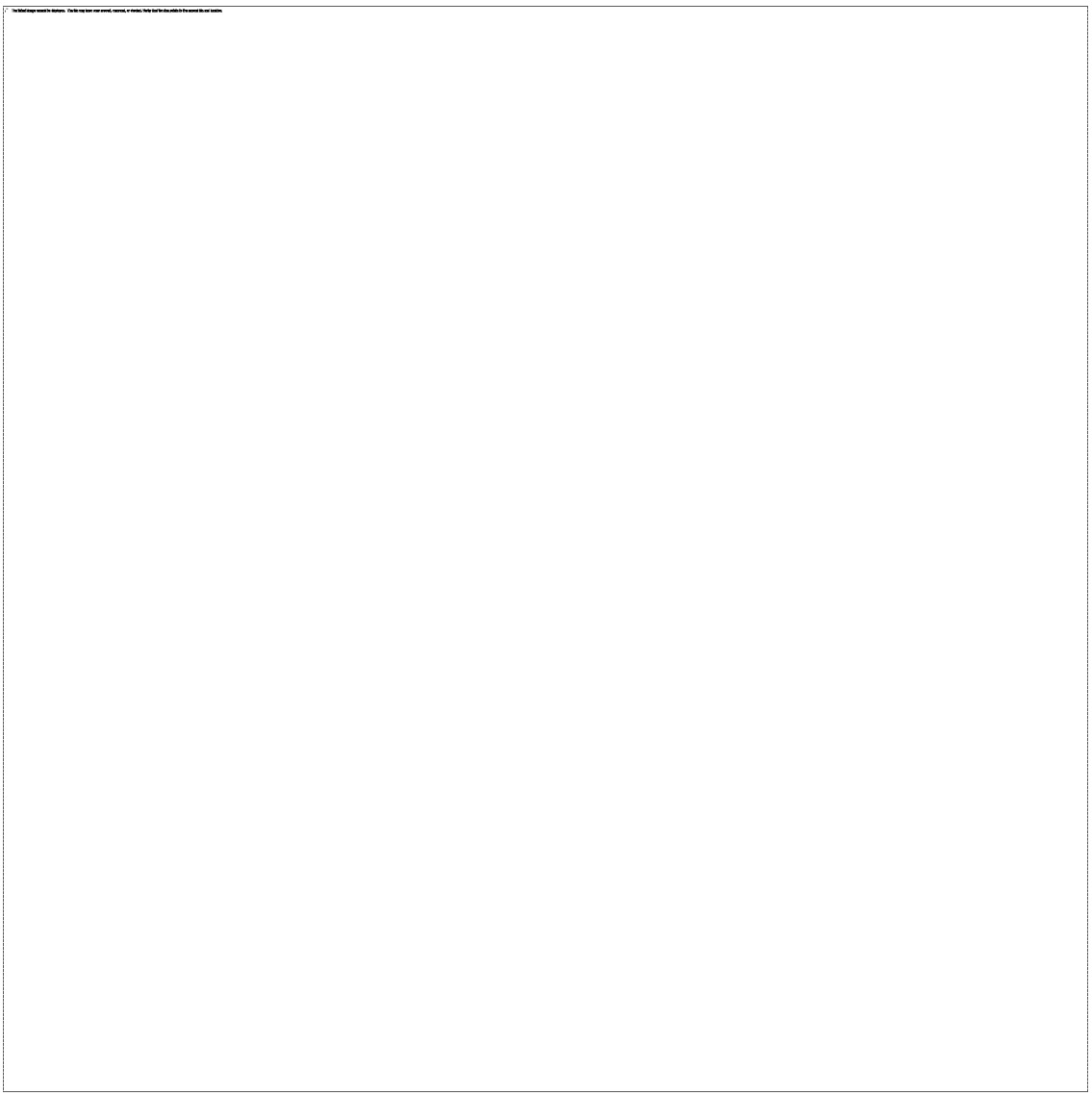
Message

From: Land Veritas Mitigation Banks [bankmanager@landveritas.com]
Sent: 6/30/2020 4:59:24 PM
To: Ziegler, Sam [Ziegler.Sam@epa.gov]
Subject: [SPAM-Sender] Land Veritas Mitigation Banks Summer Newsletter

Land Veritas Mitigation Banks Summer Newsletter



Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp Discovered at Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank!

Vernal pool fairy shrimp collected by permitted staff for identification (top) and the seasonal wetland depression the vernal pool fairy shrimp were found in (bottom)

An exciting new species was found at Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank this spring, vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*)! Vernal pool fairy shrimp are tiny transparent crustaceans that live in vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, and temporary ponds. Their presence at the Bank is especially exciting because they are a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act whose existence is imperiled by destruction and degradation of suitable habitat. Finding this rare species at the Bank is a testament to the regional conservation value of the Bank's conserved and restored habitats.

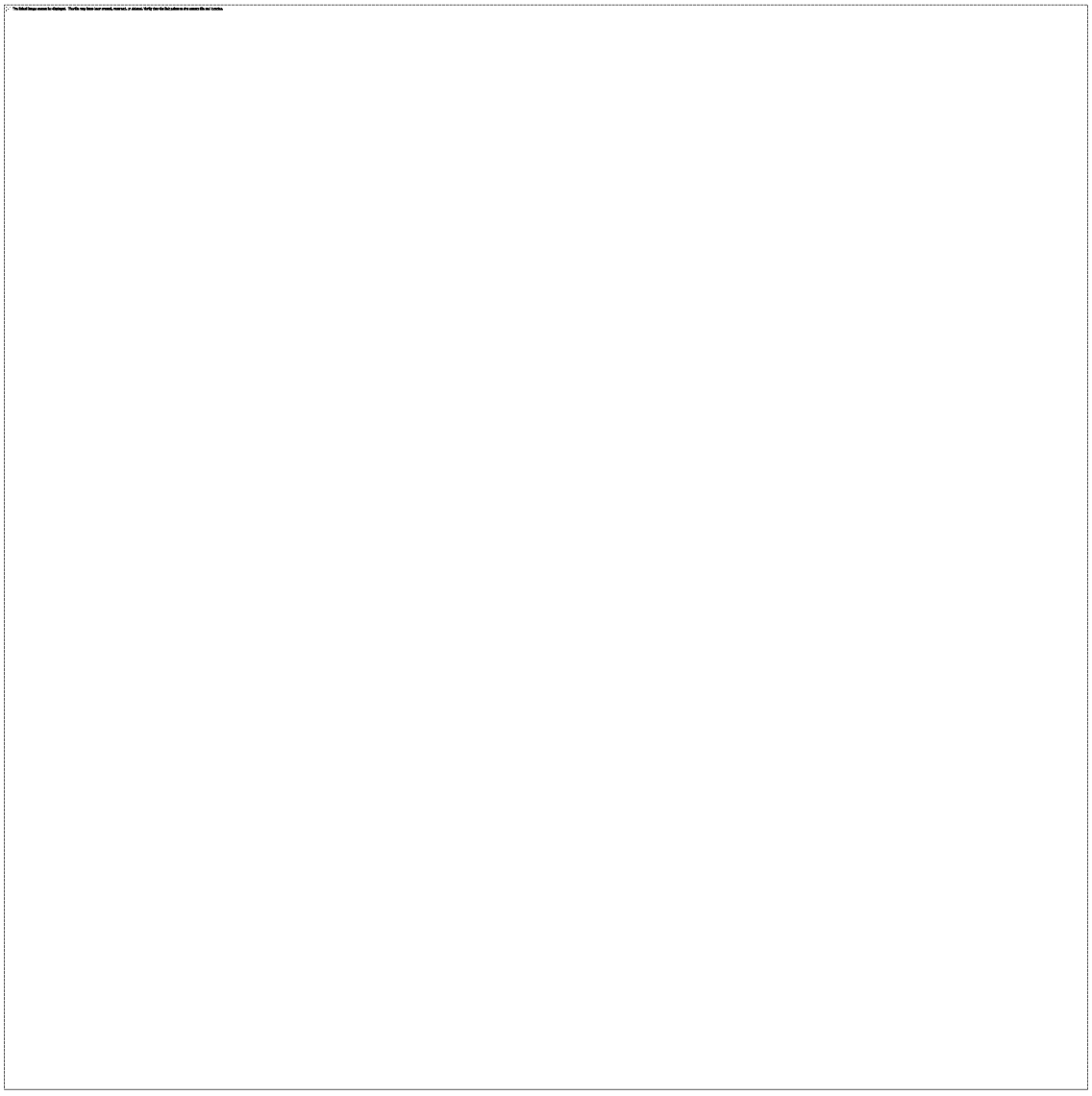
Wildlife at Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank

Great horned owl fledgling (top left), coast horned lizard (top right), and tricolored blackbirds (bottom)

Curious what kinds of wildlife call Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank home? Here are just a few that WRA staff spotted while performance monitoring at the Bank this year. In the Rift Valley, a fledgling great horned owl was seen hanging out in a willow tree and a coast horned lizard was spotted soaking up some sunshine.

At the Devil's Gate site, a flock of tricolored blackbirds were also observed. Tricolored blackbirds are a threatened species protected under the California Endangered Species Act. These wildlife sightings are another clear indicator that the Bank is providing high quality habitat for a diversity of species to thrive in.

A New Way to Monitor at Soquel Canyon Mitigation Bank



This summer, staff have started installing bioacoustic recording devices at Soquel Canyon Mitigation Bank to allow for passive monitoring of bird presence at the Bank. These devices record and analyze bird calls to provide a list of species that were present on the recording. Bioacoustic recording is an innovative and low impact way to monitor species presence, especially in remote open spaces. Using this technology will allow us to demonstrate the conservation value of the Bank over time, and hopefully document the presence of protected species, such as the federally endangered California coastal gnatcatcher, in the Bank's restored and enhanced native habitats.

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