

Help restore native diversity to the high marsh

Planting Day at Whistlestop Lagoon Monday December 18



Where

Meet in the main parking lot of the Elkhorn Slough Reserve, 1700 Elkhorn Road, Royal Oaks, CA 95076. The front gate to the Reserve will be closed but not locked, so open it for yourself as you drive in and close behind you. We will drive you down to the planting site in our vehicles.

When

Meet at 9:30 am for the morning shift; will be back in the parking lot by 12:30 pm
Or

Meet at 12:30 pm for the afternoon shift, will be back in the parking lot by 3:30 pm
Or, come at 9:30 and stay till 3:30! If you do that, bring a lunch along with you.

Why

Whistlestop Lagoon, like most of the Reserve's marshes, was diked, drained, and used for agricultural purposes. It was restored to partial tidal exchange in the 1980s, but the limited tidal range resulted in a very low diversity band of pickleweed (our native marsh dominant) fringing the edges. In 2014, the lagoon was restored to full tidal exchange. Native high marsh plants only very slowly started colonizing the new broader high marsh zone. Our goal is to restore native high marsh diversity to Whistlestop through planting.

How

We will spend the day planting hundreds of salt grass and alkali health plants into the upper portion of the salt marsh at Whistlestop. No experience is necessary, you just need to be comfortable kneeling and bending over in the marsh and dirt for a few hours.

RSVP

Please RSVP to kerstin.wasson@gmail.com so we know about how many tools and cars we need.