

## April 26, 2022 Hard Hike – Shell Ridge Pond Tour

The **Shell Ridge Pond Tour** starts at **10 am** from the Hanna Grove/Bob Pond Staging area, which is adjacent to Old Borges Ranch. The hike is just shy of 5 miles long, with approximately 1,100 feet of elevation gain. This hike visits several ponds (which hopefully will be full) in the eastern and central portions of Shell Ridge. The route takes the Borges Ranch Trail to Twin Ponds and past Bullfrog Pond. From there, we hike the Sugarloaf-Shell Ridge Trail to the Briones-Mt. Diablo Trail, which takes us to the Ginder Gap Loop. From there, we traverse the Ridge Top Trail back to Borges Ranch and Bob Pond.

The Hanna Grove/Bob Pond staging area has bathrooms, but the rest of the trail does not.

**Bring** a wide brim hat, trekking poles and water.

**Directions** to Old Borges Ranch from downtown Walnut Creek: Head east on Ygnacio Valley Blvd. past John Muir Hospital, turn right on Walnut **Ave.**, then right on Oak Grove Road at the traffic circle, and pass Northgate High School (road is now called Castle Rock). From there, go approximately 3/4 miles to the turn-off to Borges Ranch; turn right up the hill. Go approximately half a mile to the Hannah Grove/Bob Pond staging area and turn right into the parking area. The trail head is about six miles from downtown Walnut Creek.

**Optional lunch:** Burger Lounge in Walnut Creek at 2920 Ygnacio Valley Rd.

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