

California Rangeland Resolution

The undersigned recognize the critical importance of California's privately owned rangelands, particularly that significant portion that encircles the Central Valley and includes the adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands, including the Sierra foothills and the interior coast ranges. These lands support important ecosystems and are the foundation for the ranching industry that owns them.

WHEREAS, these rangelands include a rich and varied landscape of grasslands, oak woodlands, vernal pools, riparian areas and wetlands, which support numerous imperiled species, many native plants once common in the Central Valley, and are home to the highest diversity and density of wintering raptors anywhere in North America;

WHEREAS, these rangelands are often located in California's fastest-growing counties and are at significant risk of conversion to development and other uses;

WHEREAS, these rangelands, and the species that rely on these habitats, largely persist today due to the positive and experienced grazing and other land stewardship practices of the ranchers that have owned and managed these lands and are committed to a healthy future for their working landscapes;

WHEREAS, these rangelands are a critical foundation of the economic and social fabric of California's ranching industry and rural communities, and will only continue to provide this important working landscape for California's plants, fish and wildlife if private rangelands remain in ranching;

THEREFORE, we declare that it is our goal to collaboratively work together to protect and enhance the rangeland landscape that encircles California's Central Valley and includes adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands by:

- § Keeping common species common on private working landscapes;
- § Working to recover imperiled species and enhancing habitat on rangelands while seeking to minimize regulations on private lands and streamline processes;
- § Supporting the long-term viability of the ranching industry and its culture by providing economic, social and other incentives and by reducing burdens to proactive stewardship on private ranchlands;
- § Increasing private, state and federal funding, technical expertise and other assistance to continue and expand the ranching community's beneficial land stewardship practices that benefit sensitive species and are fully compatible with normal ranching practices;
- § Encouraging voluntary, collaborative and locally-led conservation that has proven to be very effective in maintaining and enhancing working landscapes;
- § Educating the public about the benefits of grazing and ranching in these rangelands.

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Signatories

Agricultural - Natural Resources Trust of Contra Costa County
Alameda County Board of Supervisors
Alameda Co. Resource Conservation District
Amador Resource Conservation District
American Farmland Trust
American Land Conservancy
Audubon California
Bureau of Land Management
Butte County Resource Conservation District
Butte Environmental Council
Calaveras Co. Resource Conservation District
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
California Cattlemen's Association
California CattleWomen's Association
California Chapter of the International Soil and Water Conservation Society
California Department of Conservation
California Dept of Fish and Game
California Dept of Food and Agriculture
California Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Grazing Lands Coalition
California Invasive Plant Council
California Native Grasslands Association
California Native Plant Society
California Oak Foundation
California Open Lands
California Rangeland Trust
California Resources Agency
California Wildlife Foundation
California Wool Growers Association

Cal-Pac Section Society For Range Management
Central Coast Rangeland Coalition
Central Sierra Region of Resource Conservation Districts
Central Valley Land Trust Council
City of Livermore
Committee for Green Foothills
Community Alliance with Family Farmers
Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Defenders of Wildlife
Ducks Unlimited
El Dorado Resource Conservation District
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Defense
Friends of Swainson's Hawk
Glenn County Resource Conservation District
Institute for Ecological Health
Jumping Frog Research Institute
Land Trust for Santa Barbara County
Marin Agricultural Land Trust
Mariposa Co. Resource Conservation District
Napa County Board of Supervisors
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
Nevada Co. Resource Conservation District
Nevada County Land Trust
Northern California Regional Land Trust
Placer Co. Resource Conservation District
Placer Land Trust
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Sacramento River Watershed Program
Sacramento Valley Conservancy
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau
San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center
San Joaquin Valley Conservancy
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
State Water Resources Control Board
Sustainable Conservation
Tehama County Resource Conservation District
The Nature Conservancy
Trust for Public Land
Tuleyome
Tuolumne Co. Resource Conservation District
University of California
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
VernalPools.org
Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
Wildlife Conservation Board
WildPlaces
Yolo County Board of Supervisors
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

July 25, 2008