



photograph by Alan Bower

Sierra Valley Ranch Protected for Ranching and Wildlife

The Feather River Land Trust, the Sierra Business Council, the California Wildlife Conservation Board, and landowner Alfred Gassiot recently worked together to complete a conservation easement on the 1,360-acre Trosi Canyon Ranch in Sierra Valley, the largest mountain valley in California. The conservation easement will protect the Trosi Canyon Ranch from development and help maintain the property as a working cattle ranch while conserving outstanding wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, and water quality in the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Feather River. The conservation easement will help ensure that Sierra Valley, 30 minutes from Reno and Truckee, maintains its open spaces and ranching heritage for generations to come.

The Trosi Canyon Ranch provides key migratory and wintering habitat for the Doyle Deer Herd and is home to more than 100 bird species. The easement also protects spectacular scenic vistas along Highway 70, a State Scenic Highway. Wildlife, open space, and scenery make the Sierra Valley a popular tourist destination and one of the most majestic valleys in the western U.S. ■

“My business background is in construction and development and in my opinion there are some places that should be developed and some places that should not be developed because of irreplaceable natural beauty, wild-life habitat, and agricultural value,” said landowner, Alfred Gassiot. “The Sierra Valley is one of these rare places left in California. I would hate to see it spoiled by the same type of development sprawl that we have witnessed in the Sacramento and Washoe Valleys. Conservation easements are a definite incentive for landowners.”

Is the threat to Sierra Valley real?

In the last few years, Sierra Valley has witnessed a three-fold jump in land values. This beautiful valley, consisting of vast vistas of working ranches, spectacular sky, and wetlands providing migratory and breeding home to 270 different kinds of birds, has been discovered. No longer part of the Lost Sierra, the Valley is a thirty minute drive from a Reno/Tahoe area no longer affordable to new buyers.

Because of the rapidly increasing prices and associated speculation, which make purchase of property more challenging for the Feather River Land Trust and our partner agencies, the Sierra Valley is a priority valley for protection.

Sierra Valley represents a way of life that is disappearing throughout California. As land prices escalate, family ranchers grow older, and their children and grandchildren follow new dreams, the character of this valley could easily change. FRLT is honored to have been part of protecting the 13,000-acre Bar One Ranch, the 1,360

-acre Balderston Ranch, the 500-acre Genasci Ranch, and the 1,360-acre Troisi Canyon Ranches in Sierra Valley with conservation easements. The Feather River Land Trust also owns and manages the 575-acre Maddalena Property in Sierra Valley and manages the 1,030-acre Matley Property along Last Chance Creek.

These Sierra Valley properties remain working ranches with landowners working with the Land Trust and other collaborating partners to manage their ranches within conservation and restoration goals. Prior owner Tony Maddalena continues to graze his cattle on Maddalena, which is a unique property in Sierra Valley in that it is available for public access. The Middle Fork of the Feather River and its feeder creeks run through Maddalena, making it an ideal place to canoe or bird watch. Affectionately, we call it “Worm Corner.” As a young fishermen, Paul Hardy and his family used to dig for worms there. ■

The purpose of the Feather River Land Trust is to conserve, restore, and manage land in the Feather River Region in cooperation with willing landowners for the benefit of current and future generations.

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Boyle's Ravine: Photograph by Shannon Morrow

Quincy middle school students to benefit from Stewardship Council Youth Investment Grant

We are thrilled to announce that the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council has invested \$25,000 in FRLT's *Learning Landscapes Initiative*. The grant will allow FRLT to take a giant step in formalizing its education program.

Conceived as a partnership between FRLT and the Plumas Unified School District, the *Learning Landscapes Initiative* has been on FRLT's drawing board for several years. FRLT's goal for *LLI* is to provide an outdoor classroom within easy walking distance of every public school in Plumas County for field study, education, and stewardship. We believe that this is a strong strategy to offset the trend toward fewer field trips due to restricted budgets and the time pressure to meet the State curriculum standards. The project will strengthen our children's relationship to and understanding of the land as well as protect precious natural areas within our towns.

The Land Trust will use this grant to take conservation action to guarantee educational use for each Learning Landscape in

perpetuity.

One of the primary strategies for a successful and sustainable program is to form partnerships with local resource professional volunteers to identify the many natural resources and fieldwork opportunities available at each site that can be used as learning assets. We will work with PUSD teachers to design, develop, and implement curriculum and resource kits that are developmentally appropriate and grade-level specific to assist in teaching the California State Content Standards.

Our first *Learning Landscapes* property will likely be Boyle's Ravine, a 186 acre property above Quincy, which is owned by the Quincy Community Services District. This property is a two block walk from Pioneer/Quincy Elementary School on Alder in Quincy. Over time, the school's middle school students will participate in the design and stewardship of this important resource. ■

Community heart raises spirit and \$17,000 for the Heart K !



Top: Guests were entertained by a band. Middle: Lloyd Cooper, his horse Slick, and his troupe provided an authentic historical element to the Barn Raising. Right: A large crowd of people gathered for the event. *Photographs by Erik Weber*

Dear friends—I'd like to express my appreciation and admiration for the work you did to make *The Barn Raising* an astounding success. We netted \$17,000 for the repair and restoration of *The Red Barn* and the protection and restoration of the rest of the Heart K Ranch!



We were successful, primarily, because the community stepped forward to do everything from participating in the two Barn Raising art exhibits at Pangaea in Quincy and Book Lore in Greenville to refinishing the deck at the Heart K main house. Altogether, nearly 85 volunteers and auction item donors participated in putting together this special time! Thank you so much.

Fittingly, we did have a cart and a couple of horses and they were hitched up quite properly by the Quincy Stable folks. In a “difficult to explain way,” the Land Trust’s work with the Heart K is putting the cart before the horse—like rappelling a wagon down a steep ravine. Sometimes that’s the way it has to be. *The Barn Raising* was a heartfelt beginning to what, we hope, will be a three-year campaign to raise 2.8 million dollars to purchase the Heart K from The Nature Conservancy and establish a management endowment for the property. It is likely that we will do this in conjunction with some of the funding and land protection partners we have cultivated over the past five years—but the “heart” in Heart K will always be the grassroots community support of the people who love it.

Frankly, we haven’t made all of the decisions about how to manage the challenge of purchasing, restoring, and providing on-going stewardship for the 960 acres of the Heart K and Taylor Lake. Although it is “protected” from exten-



FRLT Executive Director, Paul Hardy. Photograph by Erik Weber

sive subdivision by The Nature Conservancy’s ownership, their intention for the Heart K is to sell it to a conservation buyer with an easement, which protects the natural aspects of the property. FRLT intends to be that buyer. To that end we are finishing up arrangements to take out a low interest loan from the Packard Foundation. We will have three years to pay of the loan. We will keep you informed as we make progress in this—and our other endeavors across the watershed. We invite you to talk to us if you have questions, concerns, or would like to be involved. The primary difference between us and a private buyer is our policy of promoting public access—and we think that is important. Our goal is to continue to protect the Heart K and keep it—and Taylor Lake—available for the enjoyment of the community and posterity. What, exactly, that will look like remains to be seen. It is our biggest challenge to date. Thank you for being part of the effort! Paul.



Photograph by Erik Weber



Genesee Battagin
Photograph by Martha Flynn



Photographs by Trisha Aitken



Interest in the the auction was high from beginning until it was too dark to see.
Photograph by Martha Flynn

The Barn Raising was resplendent with the creativity and ingenuity of over 70 volunteers.

Countless donated hours kept our expenses low—resulting in a profit that will go a long way toward the work that needs to be done on the Heart K. From the publicity generated by the art shows at Pangaea and Book Lore to repairing and refinishing the deck to mowing and weed wacking grounds and parking lot to clean-up, the community was involved in the success of this event. Trisha Aitken, in charge of decor, created all of the tablecloths designed to celebrating the event. Here is a sample, washed, bleached, and hanging to dry in a Genesee breeze.



l to r: Katelyn Johns and Mary-Rose Cadenhead, part of the young team that managed the Kiddie Corral. Photograph by Martha Flynn



l to r: Erik Weber, Jim Wilcox, Diane McCombs, and Sally Weber. *Spinning Woman*, a movable sculpture, was created by George Fluke and Bruce Livingston from trash found on the Heart K Ranch raised \$400 at The Barn Raising. "Trash into cash," said Bruce. Photograph by Martha Flynn



l to r: LeeAnne Schramel and Suzanne Stirling put a great auction together and managed the silent and live auction the night of the event in their usual style. Auctioneer Wesley Neer of Neer Auctioneering kept bidders on their toes and the cash rolling in.

Photograph by Erik Weber



Sam Catalano. *Photograph by Martha Flynn*

Heart K Barn Raising

by Sam Catalano

June 11, 2006

*What fun we had, protectors of the land!
We gathered here to save a precious barn
And shake once more a warm and friendly hand
And then enjoy an entertaining yarn.*

*We parked and shuttled to the ranch house grounds
Which overlook a vast and tranquil plain
Whose silence only breaks from song-bird sounds,
Behind which regal, snow-capped mountains reign.*

*The Half-Grass Band immersed the air with songs
To which we may have swayed and had a dance
With one to whom our loving heart belongs
Or one with whom we hoped we had a chance.*

*We dined on Meacher's super, gourmet spread,
And then, perhaps, we downed some wine or beer,
Enjoyed some fresh and aromatic bread,
And then were awed by Neer the auctioneer.*

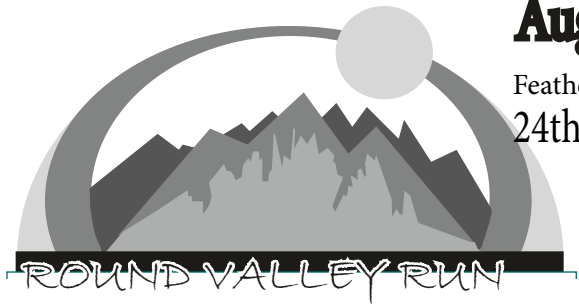
*It's for posterity our Trust protects the earth,
For we're but tourists passing through by chance of birth.*



Carr Clifton takes over the mike to encourage the audience to bid high for the Land Trust. Carr's The Red Barn sold for \$2,625. Thank you Ron and Mary Lou McNay! *Photograph by Erik Weber*

Saturday August 5, 2006

Feather River Land Trust presents the
24th Annual Run & Walk in Greenville, CA.



Course

This is a 5.3 mile cross country loop course around the lake. Terrain is mostly flat through meadows and forest. It is possibly the most scenic course you'll ever run or walk. Surface is mostly dirt with some pavement. Junior event (11-16) is a flat up and back 1.5 mi course. Walk course is 2 miles, mostly flat—up and back. Kid's Run prior to main event is a 200 yd. mini-course on paved surface.

Registration

Pre-registration fee is \$20 for main event and \$15 for junior and walk events. Race day registration add \$5. Family rate: \$2 off each entry for 3 or more. **Pre-registration must be received by July 27** and is nonrefundable. Goodie bags and

bib #'s available on morning of race. All entrants will receive a quality embroidered hat or visor. Flyers/registration forms can be obtained by calling hotline number or directly from www.roundvalleyrun.com. You may register on-line at www.allsportcentral.com.

Race Day Schedule

Registration & Pre-reg 7:30-8:30 am; Kids' Run 8:30 am; Run & Walk, Junior and Main Event 9:00 am.

Hotline

Race directors, John and Marty Shower can be reached at 530-284-6856. Fax is the same as phone. E-mail address is theshowers@frontiernet.net.

**OVER \$5,500
IN CASH AND
PRIZES GIVEN
AWAY AT LAST
YEAR'S RUN!**

Not a runner?
Join us for a walk
with friends
and family in
support of the
Feather River Land
Trust.

**PRE-REGISTRATION
DUE JULY 27TH**

Protecting the Places that Make the Feather River Region Special

FEATHER RIVER



LAND TRUST

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