

California Rangeland Trust

Ranchers Helping Ranchers



2002-2003 Annual Report

Rangeland Trust Mission



To conserve the open space, natural habitat and stewardship provided by California's ranches.

Board and Staff

Board

Mike Bennett, Chair
Darrell Wood, Vice Chair
Steve McDonald, Treasurer
Cindy Noble, Secretary
Brandy Branquinho
Glenn Drown
Devere Dressler
Holly Foster
Tim Koopmann
Steve Sinton
Scott Stone
Kendra Wilber
Jennifer Rice (Committee Member)

Staff

Nita Vail
Cristi Bozora Creegan
Andy Mills
Emily Franciskovich
Darrel Sweet
Roger Sternberg



Central Coast, May 2003

Board of Directors

- Ten Board of Directors Zones
- Diverse set of Expertise—combining talents

Financial
Legal
Range Management
Real Estate
Journalism
Recreation planning
Water Resources
Education



Rangeland Conservation



Koopmann Ranch, Alameda County

- At the end of the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the Rangeland Trust holds 74,519 acres of rangeland and thirteen conservation easements.
- Accepted applications representing over 200,000 acres as Tier One priority projects
- Helping to define California's long term agricultural conservation framework.

Stewards of the Land



- Formalized process for monitoring and stewardship.
- Board and Staff equipped with up-to-date GPS technology for sound data collection.
- Annual site visits provide ranchers the chance to exchange sustainable management strategies.

Nelson Ranch Site Visit, November 2002

Completed Conservation Easements in 2003

- Protecting nearly 25,000 acres
- Cultivating strong relationships within the conservation community through partnership projects
- Leveraging funds from multiple sources



Centennial/Dressler Ranch

- Permanently protecting a pristine and historic landscape—an “Eastern Sierra Jewel” in Mono County
- Partnered with the American Land Conservancy
- Total acreage: 6,200



Centennial/Dressler Ranch, Bridgeport

Jacalitos and Bear Valley Ranches

- Three phase project tailored to help long time family ranching operation stay in business in Fresno and Monterey Counties
- Funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Total acreage: 17,498



Kester Ranch, Monterey County

Koopmann Ranch

- Mitigation Project developed to protect habitat for the California Tiger Salamander in Alameda County
- Donated Easement
- Total acreage: 33



Koopmann Ranch, Alameda County

Santa Barbara Partnership

- Developed partnership with the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County
- Outlined goals and strategies
- Identified Priority partnership projects



Santa Barbara Partnership Meeting, Gaviota

Expanding the Conservation Toolkit

- **Conservation Easements**
- **Income and Operation Diversification**
 - i.e. guest ranching, hunting, fishing, wildlife, wildflowers, and mitigation projects
- **Estate Planning Workshops and Forums**



Bear Valley Ranch, Colusa County

Financial Report

- **Operating Grants:** Grant funding for operations was provided by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Sorenson Foundation for the fourth consecutive year, the Louise M. Davies Foundation and the Smart Family Foundation, totaling \$334,000 for the year.
- **Endowment Fund:** We have a commitment to ranchers who place conservation easements on their lands and have created an endowment to sustain our operating funding needs into future. This fund currently totals more than \$31,000 and is growing.
- **Private Donations:** Private contributions accounted for more than \$118,000 in revenue – more than five times last year's individual contributions.
- **Monitoring Endowment:** This endowment fund, used to permanently monitor the easements, currently has \$340,000.

Santa Margarita Ranch Fundraiser

San Luis Obispo County

- Nearly 250 guests in attendance
- Involving the next generation--Cal Poly Collegiate Cattlemen catered and provided event day services
- Live auction, great dinner with wine and spirits, antique automobiles and Percheron horses from Bradely.



Santa Margarita Ranch Fundraiser, May 2003

Ranchers Reaching Out

BBQ at Yolo Land & Cattle Inc., Woodland, California

Welcoming out of state agriculture conservation groups to the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Sacramento

Exchanging organizational strategies and goals

Bluegrass Music, Grass-fed Beef, wine & good spirits



Top & Bottom: BBQ in Woodland, October 2003

More reaching out....

- Cattlemen's College 101: Jonovic Ranch Management Forum
- Society for Range Management Forum, October 2003
- Multiple Interviews with various media outlets including Range Magazine, San Jose Mercury, Sacramento Bee.
- Resources Conservation District Convention, November 2003

Showcasing Success Stories

- Annual “Range-ride” brings public, private and non-profit groups together
- Easement dedication parties
- Signage
- Fundraisers at various project sites



June 2003 Range-ride at the Bar One Ranch, Plumas County

Promoting Conservation Policy

The Rangeland Trust actively advocates for policies that support voluntary land conservation efforts



Policy Meeting in Washington DC, July 2003

Working with other Western Rangeland Trusts to Coordinate Efforts

- Colorado
- Nevada
- Oregon
- Wyoming
- New Mexico
- Kansas
- Montana
- Arizona
- Washington
- Utah



Collaborative meeting in New Mexico, November 2003

The Outlook

- Increase funding base
- Adapt approach to meet changing fiscal and political environment
- Diversify approach to conservation i.e. donated easements, charitable giving, etc.
- Transact projects currently classified as Tier 1 Priority
- Continue to enhance staff capacity
- Develop and define roles for a potential advisory board
- Continue to model unwavering ethical integrity throughout the broader land trust movement
- Emphasize “conservation connectivity” through landscape level preservation

For more information visit our website

www.rangelandtrust.org

