

## CARRIZO RANCH: A SUBDIVISION IN REVERSE

Imagine growing up on a ranch where everything you need is on the land right in front of you. Between the fruit trees that provide fresh produce in abundance, the pastureland that supports a variety of grazing livestock, and the peace and serenity that comes with being in tune with the land day in and day out, there is no place you would rather be, right?

Now imagine watching the land you love slowly vanish – first the wide open space is encroached on by one house, then a whole subdivision, and eventually it is taken over by an entire city. Doesn't it leave you heartbroken to see the working rangeland that was once inhabited by cattle and a diversity of plants and wildlife plowed under and paved over?

For Sally Friend and her son, Michael Dennis, this was reality when their family's ranch, Rancho Santa Ana, was swallowed up by the growing development happening in and around Los Angeles in the

1970s. Today, the vast landscape where some of Sally and Michael's fondest memories were made are just that, memories. "That ranch is unrecognizable," Michael somberly explained.

Watching the land disappear was so disheartening, Michael retreated to Wyoming to start his own veterinary practice. For Sally, this was the beginning of a long road of reestablishing her presence in the ranching industry.

In 1979, Sally and her brother purchased the Carrizo Ranch and the Las Piletas Ranch in San Luis Obispo County, CA. After a few years of the partnership, the pair split, and Sally became the sole owner of the Carrizo Ranch. In recent years, Sally encouraged Michael to come back to California to take over management of the ranch.

Having witnessed the aftermath of what can happen when development comes knocking, Sally refused to watch history repeat itself.

"It is hard to protect your land on your own," expressed Sally. So, in 2010 she sought out the California Rangeland Trust to ensure the Carrizo Ranch would not end with her generation.

Sally donated the development rights on the Carrizo Ranch, which at the time totaled 20,274 acres, through a conservation easement held by the Rangeland Trust. The peace of mind from this act alone would have been enough for most but not for Sally.

Within the perimeter of the original ranch stood a 53-lot subdivision ready to be developed. Sally spent years working to acquire these parcels to stave off development and expand her ranch. To date, Sally has acquired 50 of the original 53 lots, each time conserving the additional acreage by donating the development rights to the



Sally Friend and her son, Michael Dennis, are the dynamic duo that own and steward the Carrizo Ranch.

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Carrizo Ranch, San Luis Obispo County

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## LEADERSHIP LETTER

Dear Friends,

Over the last couple years, I have had the honor to serve as Chair for the Rangeland Trust... what a time to come into leadership. Facing a pandemic amidst a CEO transition, we braced ourselves to work harder than ever and closer than ever to continue to fulfill the promises made to our landowner partners, to our communities, and to our donors who make everything possible. I am grateful for the strong foundation that former CEO, Nita Vail, helped build here, and for the successful transition led by Michael Delbar to keep our mission moving forward.

Within this newsletter is a beautiful snapshot of what can happen when we refuse to let anything hinder progress toward conserving the lands we need and love. More than conserving 15 ranches and over 30,000 acres since March 2020, together we've helped real people improve their lands, overcome financial challenges, and preserve our shared heritage. This was possible because people like you made such opportunities a priority during a worldwide pandemic and sent donations to continue advancing this cause.

During this time, the hardest part has been our separation. What a gift when we were able to come back together this fall in Orange County. It was incredible to see so many friends coming out to celebrate conservation, honor land stewards and advocates, and revel in our Western heritage. You reminded us just how powerful this community is in furthering working lands conservation.

We are building something together. As you'll see in the annual report, we continue to be responsible stewards of our land and climate as well as the resources you provide to protect these lands. The need is great with over 200,000 acres currently awaiting conservation, and we are happy to have new staff on board to meet this challenge. We welcome those who value protecting rangeland to support us financially, and we look forward to working with you to achieve more stories of success.

This work is important. I've been humbled to help lead the Rangeland Trust through this time, and you inspired all of us along the way. Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping ensure the Rangeland Trust can continue the good work of conservation with you *no matter what*.

Sincerely,



*V. Gordon*

Valerie Gordon  
Outgoing Board Chair



# ARE YOU AGE 70 OR OLDER?

If you are age 70½ or older, you can make a tax-free gift towards ensuring a future for hard-working landscapes in California.

You've worked hard, saved diligently, and are ready to enjoy your retirement years. Maybe you're also looking for a way to give back to the special causes that are important to you. Consider making a gift from your IRA.

Current law allows you to transfer any amount up to \$100,000 directly to a qualified charitable organization each year without paying income tax on the distribution. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution or QCD, for short.

- ★ You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer doesn't generate taxable income or a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.
- ★ Your gift can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution for the year.

Please note that there is no longer a waiver for the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) in 2021. As a result, anyone age 72 or older as of December 31, 2021 must take their RMD by year-end to avoid the 50% penalty—unless this is your first distribution, in which case you have until April 1, 2022.

**In order for your gift to qualify this year, we must receive it by December 31.**

*This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor. State law may further impact your individual results.*



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Between meetings and raising awareness of the California Rangeland Trust, the Legacy Council has been hard at work.

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**LYNAI CHURCH**  
*IN MEMORY OF LOU WHITFIELD*



# DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Some folks are born with a giving spirit. Take for example Jerry and Marilyn Russell. First, in 2017 they conserved the Sagehorn-Russell Ranch in Mendocino County. On top of that, they donated the conservation easement offsetting nearly all the costs for the transaction. For many, that would have been enough, but not for the Russells. Their commitment to conserving California's working lands is boundless, and now, they are helping others to preserve their ranches.

"I wake up every day happy to be working with the Rangeland Trust, and I want to do more of that" says Marilyn. "I was raised to leave it better than I found it. Helping others to conserve their ranches allows me to do that."

Recently, the Russells had an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) distribution coming due. They did not need the funds – "I have enough jeans and t-shirts to last me," jokes Marilyn. They also did not want to pay taxes on the funds. So, they planned to divide the total amount among their three favorite charities with the Rangeland Trust receiving \$20,000 to be used for whatever was currently the most-pressing need.

*"I was raised to leave it better than I found it. Helping others to conserve their ranches allows me to do that."*

After a discussion with the Rangeland Trust's Fund Development Office, it was suggested to Marilyn that the funds be used as a matching challenge to kick off the Fund-A-Need portion of the auction at this year's *A Western Affair*. The Rangeland Trust was seeking to raise \$100,000 during the event to allow landowner partner Ernest Bufford to conserve a newly acquired parcel adjacent to his already-conserved ranch east of Bakersfield.

According to Marilyn, "I've seen other organizations utilize matching gift challenges, and I love the idea of leveraging individuals' donations. And for our gift to benefit Ernie who shares our passion for ranching, hunting and conservation; it was perfect!"

The crowd that assembled at Rancho Mission Viejo was inspired by this generous lead gift and responded with great enthusiasm. When the Fund-A-Need was over, the Rangeland Trust had raised \$101,000 – enough to conserve the newest section of the Bufford Ranch (pg. 6)!

Marilyn got choked up when she heard of the success her gift had motivated. "I believe strongly that we owe a debt to our ancestors and to the future. Jerry and I don't have any heirs but if we can help others to enjoy open spaces and beautiful places with good friends, then I feel like we are leaving an impact and doing something really good."

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ALYSSA ROLEN

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# A WESTERN AFFAIR 2021

## CELEBRATING OUR RANCHING ROOTS

In October, friends of the Rangeland Trust gathered on the land for *A Western Affair 2021* to celebrate our state's ranching roots and the pivotal role ranching plays in the growth of healthy communities.

Few know that some of California's deepest ranching roots stem from Orange County, so it was a fitting return to where many of us began. Taking place in San Juan Capistrano, CA, this year's event was graciously hosted by Rancho Mission Viejo

which is one of the last remaining working cattle ranches in Orange County.

At the event, guests helped raise more than \$300,000 to conserve California's magnificent working lands and the many benefits they provide. And making the night even more special, for the first time ever, funds were raised in a single night to achieve conservation of a newly added piece of the Bufford Ranch! (Read more about

the ranch by visiting our blog at: [www.rangelandtrust.org/blog](http://www.rangelandtrust.org/blog))

The weekend filled with Western wonder served as the perfect reminder of what is possible when people from all walks of life come together to help conserve the working rangelands that contribute to everyone's wellbeing. Keep an eye out for details coming soon on *A Western Affair 2023* which will celebrate the Rangeland Trust's 25th anniversary!



A pre-party was held at Rancho Mission Viejo's Cow Camp where Rancho Mission Viejo Chairman and CEO, Tony Moiso, told stories of days gone by on the ranch.



Guests were thrilled for the opportunity to connect with friends both new and familiar out on the land.



A highlight of the pre-party was watching charro Manny Gonzalez perform a roping demonstration.



On Saturday evening, guests gathered for an evening filled with western wonder at Rancho Mission Viejo's Amantes Camp.



Ventura County rancher and cowboy poet, Mike Williams, recited one of his original poems during the main event.



One of the best parts of the evening was when the crowd came together and raised the funds needed to conserve the newly added piece of the Bufford Ranch.



The California Rangeland Trust remains grateful to the team at Rancho Mission Viejo for hosting *A Western Affair 2021*.



# CALIFORNIA RANGELAND TRUST RECOGNIZES LEADERS IN CONSERVATION

At *A Western Affair 2021*, Rangeland Trust Board Chair, Valerie Gordon, and CEO, Michael Delbar, honored both the 2020 and 2021 conservation award recipients.

The Conservation Impact Award recognizes individuals who have excelled in environmental protection and made significant contributions to the advancement of conservation, while the Conservationist of the Year Award recognizes achievement in volunteer conservation by a private landowner.

**Al Jahns** was recognized as the recipient of the 2020 Conservation Impact Award, while **Sally Friend** and **Michael Dennis** of the Carrizo Ranch (read their story on pg. 1)

were recognized as the recipients of the 2020 Conservationist of the Year Award. These three individuals were honored during the virtual *A Western Affair* program in April 2020, so it was extra special to acknowledge them in person down at Rancho Mission Viejo.

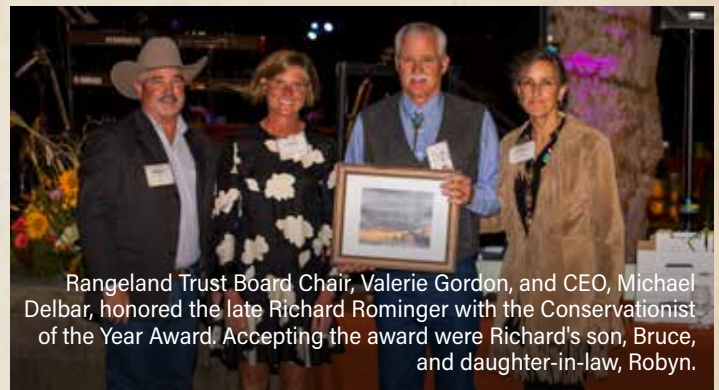
The Rangeland Trust was also pleased to honor **Dr. Lynn Huntsinger** as the winner of the 2021 Conservation Impact Award and the late **Richard Rominger** as the winner of the 2021 Conservationist of the Year Award.

Dr. Huntsinger has made exceptional contributions to advance rangeland science and management through her path-breaking research on rangeland social-ecological systems. These efforts are helping to change the way

California values working landscapes.

Richard Rominger, who sadly passed away earlier this year, was a leader in agriculture and worked tirelessly to advocate for policies that benefited farmers and ranchers. He also demonstrated his conservation ethic when he, along with his sons Bruce and Rick, partnered with the Rangeland Trust in 2018 and 2019 to conserve two pieces of the family's property consisting of 2,300 acres.

We tip our hats to these five individuals and thank them for their extraordinary contributions to preserve working lands for the future of California.



## THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT HOST AND SPONSORS

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# GIVING BACK FOR THE WIN-WIN

Our relationship to the land is incredibly important. How we spend time on land, think about land, utilize land, experience joy from land, and care for land all depend on that relationship. How much do these spaces, and the people and wildlife who rely on them, mean to you?

Your connection to the land is a reciprocal relationship, but not an equal one. While what we receive from the land can never be evenly matched, it's vital we continue to do our part. When you give back to the land and care for it, you express your appreciation. When you can give to conservation, you are also taking action to keep more lands available for all of us.



Whether you are a rancher or a city dweller, you are not working in a vacuum. The health of one rancher's landscape depends on the health and availability of the lands around them. The community that is built through our shared heritage and appreciation of working lands reminds us that we are not alone in our efforts to care for the land.

You know that grazed lands slow the spread of violent wildfires. The healthy grasses grab carbon from the air and store it deep underground. The land becomes a sponge, taking in fresh water while filtering out toxins. We eat and drink and breathe and play because the land is working for us!

But if we don't ensure these incredible places are available to provide their numerous gifts to better our lives, we lose them. And if we don't care for the people who steward our working lands, we lose them again.

## *Let's focus on the win-win solution.*

By helping to conserve working lands, you share in the circle of giving back for all the good we receive. You help keep more ranchers doing the shared good work of caring for these lands. It is the small part we can all play to pay it forward in gratitude for our present, in honor of our past, and with hope for the future.

*Please join with the people featured in this newsletter who are doing what they can to further working lands conservation. They are your community and your partners in this endeavor, and we can all come together to have a big impact.*

## **What gift can you send to the land today?**

*Have you been dabbling in cryptocurrency? Given the rise in value and popularity of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, the Rangeland Trust chose to diversify its revenue streams by accepting crypto donations this year. You can visit our website to make a direct and immediate impact with your resourceful investment!*



# PRESERVING THE PAST AND FUTURE OF RANCHING WITH THE MOULTON MUSEUM

California Rangeland Trust has partnered with the Moulton Museum in Orange County to "Preserve the Past and Future of Ranching in California". To kick off our collaboration and highlight our mutual interests, we gathered at Aliso Viejo Ranch for the first-ever *Bunkhouse BBQ*. More than 200 guests attended and were treated to delicious food from Jav's BBQ, wine from Bellante Vineyards and beer from Gamecraft Brewing. The evening also featured a Western art display from students at the Laguna College of Art and Design, tours of the onsite aquaponic garden, ranch-themed games for the kids and a dinner-time presentation about the Moulton Museum and the Rangeland Trust.

Aliso Viejo Ranch sits on the last eight acres of the Moulton family's Rancho Niguel which once encompassed much of coastal Orange County. The Rangeland Trust has deep ties with the Moulton Family. The late Louise Moulton Hansen conserved her ranch in Santa Barbara County with the Rangeland Trust. Jane (Moulton) Barnes is the widow of Woody Barnes, a former Board Member and long-time friend of the Rangeland Trust. Woody's son, Scott Barnes, and his cousin, Jared Mathis, have developed the Moulton Museum which seeks to preserve the history of ranching in California. With efforts underway to expand the Rangeland Trust's footprint in Southern California, the *Bunkhouse BBQ* was a fantastic opportunity to "plant our flag" in Orange County. Planning is already underway for the 2nd *Bunkhouse BBQ* in 2022!



The Rangeland Trust kicked off its partnership with the Moulton Museum in August with the *Bunkhouse BBQ* at Aliso Viejo Ranch.

## BUNKHOUSE BBQ



During the dinner program, Rangeland Trust CEO, Michel Delbar, explained how rangelands benefit all Californians.



The event featured a variety of fun activities for folks of all ages including a roping demonstration, an art display, and a tour of the ranch's aquaponic garden.



The Rangeland Trust had a booth and shared the importance of range conservation with new friends.



As the Rangeland Trust expands its footprint in Orange County, the event was a fantastic opportunity to "plant our flag".



An opportunity drawing was held and the winner received free tickets to *A Western Affair 2021* (Pg. 6).



Over 200 people attended the first-ever Bunkhouse BBQ. The event was a huge hit, and plans are already underway for 2022!



# WELCOME NEW



## **ZEKE LIHOSIT** ANNUAL GIVING MANAGER

Zeke grew up in Madera, CA where he developed a deep appreciation for the agricultural community. He spent his summers working on fig ranches and driving refrigerated trucks filled with specialty produce across the state. While obtaining his B.A. in History from Northern Arizona University, he began his career in fundraising. Following his undergraduate studies, he worked in annual giving roles at both the University of Arizona and the University of San Diego, where he also earned a M.A. in History. Prior to joining the Rangeland Trust, Zeke worked in online fundraising software sales for Classy.org. Throughout his decadelong career, Zeke has managed phonathons and university-wide crowdfunding and email campaigns, as well as raised leadership gifts. In his free time, Zeke, with his wife and young daughter, enjoy exploring the different parks and trails in the Sacramento area. As the Rangeland Trust's new Annual Giving Manager, Zeke is excited to help increase support and visibility for the Trust's work in preserving California's precious rangelands.



## **CHRISTIAN DUMMIT** ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST

Christian was born and raised on a 16-acre farm on the outskirts of Winston-Salem, NC. There, he developed a passion for the woods and natural landscapes. He attended college in North Carolina at Elon University where he was involved in the campus "Green" initiative and served as a volunteer coach with the Special Olympic swimming division. Christian went on to attend Pfeiffer University on a swimming scholarship where was a member of the Marines ROTC training program. In 2014, he graduated with a B.S. in Accounting. Since then, Christian has lived in six states and worked in several different industries. His accounting background is diverse with experience in auditing, costing, GL accounting, and financial reporting. In Christian's spare time, he enjoys playing sports, riding motorcycles, traveling around the world, and training in MMA.



## **ALICIA IVANHOE** LAND TRANSACTION SPECIALIST

Alicia's love of nature began early. Growing up as a runner, she experienced immense joy traveling down the outdoor trails and spotting wildlife along the way. While obtaining a B.A. in Psychology at the University of California, Davis, Alicia ran track and cross-country; there she was exposed to beautiful agricultural land in the area. These and other outdoor adventures in Northern California have had a lasting impact on her and fuel her desire to help conserve private rangeland across the state. After completing her undergraduate studies, Alicia worked in property management and most recently residential real estate after receiving her real estate salesperson license. Alicia also has a background in the arts and in her spare time enjoys photography, painting, and screenwriting. She spent time acting in Los Angeles, and one of her favorite experiences on set was with Runaway June, working on their music video "Wild West." Alicia is excited to bring her skills and passion to the Rangeland Trust to help conserve the working lands that provide for humans and wildlife alike.



# STAFF MEMBERS



## **JT REISER** LAND TRANSACTION SPECIALIST

Growing up in the Midwest, JT was surrounded by farming and ranching operations. With both sets of grandparents being cattle salesmen and generational farmers in Nebraska, he developed a passion for open space and working landscapes. JT attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for his undergraduate studies where he majored in Biological Sciences and minored in both Fisheries and Wildlife and Water Science. From there, he went on to earn a M.S. in Sustainability, Planning and Management with a focus in open space and ecosystem planning from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Prior to joining the Rangeland Trust, JT worked for various non-profit, public, and private organizations in the natural resources management field, including The Nature Conservancy and Boulder County Parks & Open Space. In his free time, JT enjoys spending time in the outdoors.



## **NATALIE CUNHA** DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

Natalie has a passion for outdoor recreation, the ranching lifestyle, and California's working lands. Her love of agriculture led her to California State University, Chico where she obtained a B.S. in Agricultural Science and Education and a minor in Animal Science. After completing her undergraduate education, Natalie moved to Steamboat Springs, Colorado where she worked on a guest ranch. While there, she also attended Colorado State University where she earned a M.S. in Extension Education. After completing her graduate education and prior to joining the Rangeland Trust, Natalie moved back to California to work for the University of California Cooperative Extension as the 4-H Youth Development Program Representative for Placer County. In her spare time, Natalie enjoys raising livestock, riding horses, and experiencing the outdoors. She is excited to reclaim her roots in Sacramento and help conserve California's private rangelands for the benefit of current and future generations of Californians.



## **MARITA HILL** CONSERVATION ASSOCIATE

Marita grew up in Phoenix, AZ playing competitive soccer and volleyball and has always been passionate about protecting and learning about our environment. She earned a B.S. in Environmental and Water Resource Economics, along with a minor in Italian from the University of Arizona. Before joining the Rangeland Trust, Marita worked in retail management for major retail chains including Kohl's Department Stores and Gap Inc. Marita has extensive experience in customer service and office management. In her free time, Marita enjoys coaching youth volleyball, cooking, and travelling.

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT &

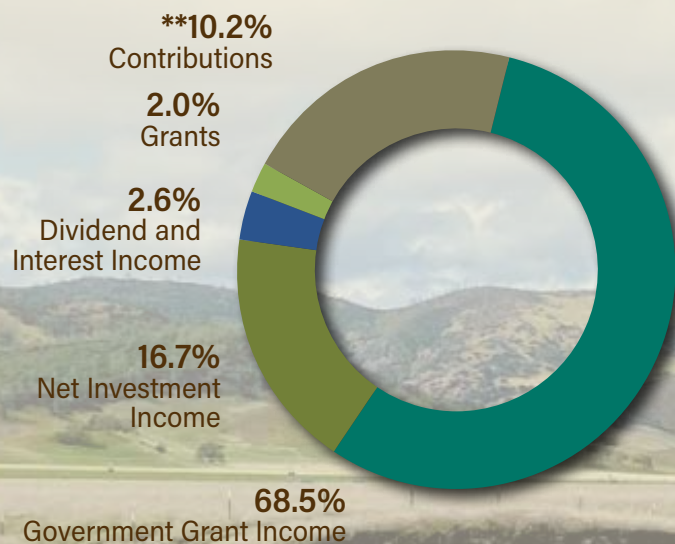
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2020

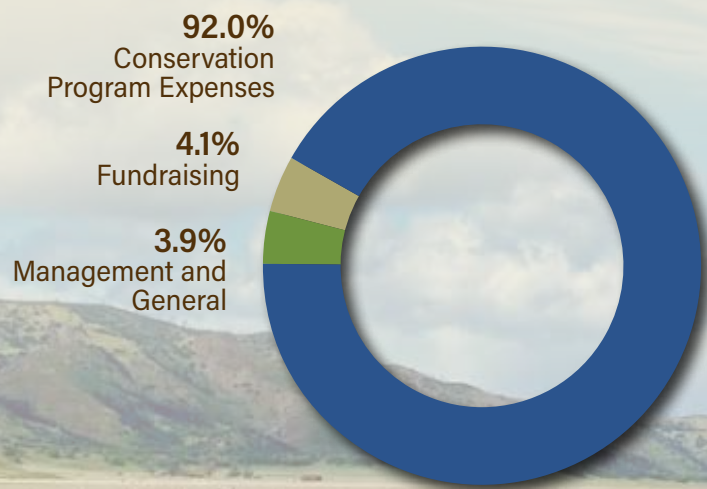
ASSETS		LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 280,766	Accounts Payable & Other Liabilities	\$ 197,986
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,125,921	Mitigation Liability	125,000
*Investments	31,068,959	Deferred Revenue	10,010
Pledges Receivable	106,788	Notes Payable	247,400
Accounts Receivable	107,969	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 580,396</b>
Projects in Development	822,736	<b>Net Assets</b>	
Donated Property Held for Sale	1,000,000	Without Donor Restrictions	8,099,400
Conservation Easements	3,451	With Donor Restrictions	27,650,788
Mitigation Deposit	127,748	<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 35,750,188</b>
Property and Equipment	686,246	<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 36,330,584</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 36,330,584</b>		

\*Comprises net assets that include restricted endowments for our perpetual stewardship responsibilities on the more than 344,000 acres that have been forever conserved through the Rangeland Trust.

## 2020 REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT



## 2020 EXPENSES



\*\*Includes gifts for annual support and endowments.



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## ACCOMPLISHING OUR MISSION TOGETHER

Thank you for helping us protect California's open spaces and the life sustained by rangeland. 2020 was a turbulent year for many, but, no matter what, you helped us stay resilient. With your support, we conserved nine ranches totaling 9,273 acres for a year-end total of 344,294 acres of permanently protected rangeland. We wouldn't have been able to do this without you! Together, we ensure that these landscapes will remain vibrant, working lands stewarded by ranching families for generations.

9,273

ACRES

OF RANGELAND  
PERMANENTLY PROTECTED



10

MILLION DOLLARS

ANNUALLY IN ECOSYSTEM  
SERVICES CONSERVED



5,272

ACRES

OF OAK WOODLAND HABITAT  
PROTECTED



8

PLANT SPECIES

OF SPECIAL STATUS HABITAT  
PROTECTED



18

WILDLIFE SPECIES

OF SPECIAL STATUS HABITAT  
PROTECTED



10

MILES

OF FRESHWATER STREAMS  
CONSERVED



20

BRIEFINGS

HELD WITH POLICYMAKERS  
SHOWING THE VALUE OF  
RANGELAND



400

PEOPLE

CONNECTED TO THE LAND  
THROUGH VIRTUAL AND  
IN PERSON EVENTS



4

VIDEO RANCH TOURS

SHARED ON SOCIAL MEDIA  
GENERATING 4,600 VIEWS



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT THANK YOU DONORS

JANUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020

32 WINDS WINE  
LEO AND CAROLYN  
ACQUISTAPACE  
PETER AND BECKY  
ADAMS  
WENDY AGUILAR  
GILBERT AGUIRRE  
GREG AND CINDY  
AMARAL  
AMAZONSMILE  
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ANDREINI AND  
COMPANY  
ANONYMOUS  
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MURPHY  
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BARTHEL  
KING AND ANA  
BECHTEL  
GERALD BEESON  
DOUGLAS BELL  
THE BENEVITY  
COMMUNITY  
IMPACT FUND  
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BESTWICK  
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BIAGGI  
BILL AND SHIRLEY  
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FOUNDATION  
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LANCE AND JUDI  
BROWN  
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JAMIE BUFFINGTON  
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CATTANI  
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FIDELITY  
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GAMBLE  
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ROY AND MYRNA  
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MARY JANE  
GENOCHIO  
BITEMEA GILES B.

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GREGG HACKETHAL  
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HUNTER  
ERIC HVOLBOLL  
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ROXANNE LAPIDUS-  
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KOOPMANN  
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PELLIZZON  
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PERSICO  
BJ PETERSEN  
SOREN PETERSON



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PETERSON  
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SUSAN PETROVICH  
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ALEXANDER RADAY  
RAINTREE  
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BILL AND KRISTIN  
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JACK AND ANNE RICE  
DOUG AND KAREN  
ROBERTS  
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SAGE  
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JAY AND BETTINA  
SALTER  
PETER AND MARGIT  
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SCHWAB  
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SINTON  
JACK AND LAURIE  
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COMMUNITY  
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ROGER STERNBERG  
JOHN STEVENSON  
AND ELIZABETH  
FLOOD STEVENSON  
KAREN SWAEBY  
FRANCIS SWEET  
GUNER AND HEIDI  
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MARK AND SUSIE  
TAUTRIM  
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EMILY TAYLOR  
DEBORAH THORSEN  
CHALON AND TYLIA  
TIETJE  
KIM AND TRISH  
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TOGNAZZINI  
DON AND MERRIE  
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LYLE TURPIN  
UNITED WAY  
CALIFORNIA  
CAPITAL REGION  
UNITED WAY OF  
SAN LUIS OBISPO  
COUNTY  
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NITA VAIL  
TIM VAIL  
ELIZABETH  
VALDOVINOS AND  
GERALD FEJARANG  
SCOTT AND SUSAN  
VAN DER KAR  
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NICOLE VAN VLECK  
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RICHARD WAGNER  
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CATHERINE  
WIELAND  
FRED AND AMANDA  
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KIM AND SHARON  
WILSON  
CHERLYN WINN  
ROBERT AND  
BARBARA ANN  
WOLFORD  
DARRELL AND  
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BOB WOODS  
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AND CAROLA  
NICHOLSON  
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**DARREL SWEET**  
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**WOOLLEY FAMILY**  
KEARNEY AND  
LESLIE MARTINS

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JON SEMPER

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TERRI ARINGTON

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**MARIE CARTY**  
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DARREL AND KAREN  
SWEET

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MICHELLE R. COX

**TRE CUNNINGHAM**  
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CHARITABLE

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CURTIN FAMILY

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DAN AND BARBARA  
O'CONNELL

**ANDY FIACK**  
DAN AND BARBARA  
O'CONNELL

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**CARTER HARTILL**  
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O'CONNELL

**SUE HERTHEL**  
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**LILLA HUNTER BELL**  
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JAUREGUI**  
JOE JAUREGUI

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DAVID AND  
JULIE GALLO  
VANDERWALL

**DAVID AND BETTY  
POTTER**  
DUNCAN L. HOWARD

**GORDON  
RASMUSSEN**  
ANDREINI AND  
COMPANY  
DARREL AND KAREN  
SWEET  
DON AND MARIANNE  
WOOD

**EMMA AND CONRAD  
RIEB**  
LORETTA RIEB

**JACK E. RUSSELL**  
DANIEL & ANNE  
RUDOLPH  
CHARITABLE FUND

**JIM SINTON**  
VERONIQUE GILLARD  
AND WOLF WEBER  
WILLIAM AND  
SHEILAH TIETJE

**JIM AND NORMA  
SINTON**  
DEBBY LYON AND R.  
JEFFREY HERTEN  
JESSE CUEVAS AND  
MARTHA NOEL  
JOHN SCHOETTLER  
AND ELAINE HILL

**DOROTHY  
STECHMAN**  
JOHN STECHMAN

**AL AND GRACE  
THOMSONL**  
JEANNIE THOMSON

**SHEILA VARIAN**  
JOHN AND JEANNE  
DAVISSON  
DAWN, CLINT &  
MIKAYLA VORIS,  
PEACE MAKER  
V+++ AND  
PRECIOUS V  
CHERLYN WINN

**CAROLINE YACOB**  
ROSIE YACOB



## CARRIZO RANCH: A SUBDIVISION IN REVERSE CONT.

Rangeland Trust.

"I like to call it a subdivision in reverse," Michael stated. Today, the Carrizo Ranch encompasses more than 27,000 acres of conserved, working rangeland.

Saving the land piece by piece was not an easy task. "Not a lot of people can be talked out of their land, but I took those roadblocks and moved them out of my way," recalled Sally.

With this amount of land comes an immense responsibility to care for it. Under previous ownership, the land saw soil erosion and harsh dry farming methods. "The land needed to be left alone, so it could heal itself," explained Michael. Fortunately, he, like his mother, has a deep love for the land. By implementing holistic management practices, he has been able to successfully nurture the land back to health.

Today, the land, rich in biodiversity, is truly a sight to see — to the south end of the property, oak woodlands cover the hillsides and to the north, rolling grasslands stretch as far as

the eye can see. And in addition to Sally and Michael's commercial cattle operation, the land is also home to a variety of wildlife, including deer, elk, and bears.

"I want to make this ranch all that it can be," said Michael. "This land is and should be a haven for wildlife, plants, and our livestock, and every day it is a joy seeing the changes we have contributed to."

In 2020, Sally and Michael were honored with the California

Rangeland Trust's Conservationist of the Year Award which recognizes extraordinary achievement in volunteer conservation by a private landowner (pg. 7). Between Sally's efforts to ward off development in and around her ranch and Michael's topnotch stewardship, they were a clear choice for this prestigious award.

"It is very rewarding to be recognized for something that took a lot of time and effort to achieve," said Sally proudly.

As touched as Sally was to be recognized, one of her greatest pleasures in life is watching her son, three grandchildren, and multiple great-grandchildren enjoy the land as much as she does.

"Seeing the multiple generations on the land is what I always hoped for," expressed Sally. "Now there is not a question, whether it is my family or not, it will never be lost to development."

*By: Madison Goss, Communications Coordinator*



The Carrizo Ranch is rich in biodiversity and hosts a variety of wildlife including deer, elk, and bears.