

WIND WOLVES PRESERVE: THE VALUE OF THE SKY ABOVE AND LAND BELOW

When you think about the United States Military, rangeland conservation may not be the first thing that comes to mind. But, through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program administered by the United States Department of Defense (DOD), our military branches are joining the movement to protect open landscapes for generations to come.

Thanks to a newly formed partnership between The Wildlands Conservancy, Trust for Public Land (TPL), and the California Rangeland Trust, and with funding from the REPI program, 14,631 acres of pristine rangeland are now permanently conserved on the Wind Wolves Preserve in Kern County.

The Wind Wolves Preserve is owned and managed by The Wildlands Conservancy. The Conservancy owns and manages the largest nonprofit Preserve System which is comprised of 22 preserves across California. This particular preserve is roughly 93,000 acres and is the largest on the West Coast to be owned by a non-profit entity.

While the Conservancy had no intentions to develop the preserve, it feared that it was only a matter of time before the threat of development would come lurking around the corner. A portion of the Preserve fell into the county's Specific Plan, which included plans to develop a new town, known as none other than "New Town". With a strong desire and firm commitment to permanently protect the working landscape, the Conservancy reached out to TPL for help in pursuing legal agreements to ward off any current or future plans that would disrupt the property's natural landscape.

TPL has partnered with the DOD on REPI projects nationwide, closing over 100 transactions since the program was initiated. According to the DOD's

website, the program "is a key tool for combating encroachment that can limit or restrict military training, testing, and operations."

TPL identified that development of the Preserve would pose an imminent threat to the United States Air Force and United States Navy because it is located beneath the military's high-altitude supersonic corridor and other flightpaths.

Edwards Air Force Base and China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station use the supersonic corridor as a military training route for fighter jets, airplanes, and helicopters to travel between different military installments, as well as late-night training simulations. Though the corridor is not used every day, when it is used, it is safer and more practical to have the land below it be open space, rather than inhabited by civilians.

(Continued on page 11)

Photo by: Aaron Collier

Wind Wolves Preserve, Kern County

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LEADERSHIP LETTER

Dear Friends,

I've always believed that a little progress each day can add up to big results. And that is exactly what I have seen throughout my longstanding involvement with the California Rangeland Trust.

I am deeply honored to have been recently elected as Chairman of the Rangeland Trust Board of Directors. For me, my experience within the organization has come full circle – having started as one of the Trust's first staff members in 1998 to transitioning to the Board in 2017 to now taking on this new role in helping to lead the organization forward.

One of the greatest pleasures of my life has been watching the Rangeland Trust transform from its humble beginnings, born from a group of ranchers seeking to preserve California's magnificent working landscapes for future generations, into the largest statewide land trust with over 365,000 acres conserved and counting. This is a remarkable achievement, and I'm more optimistic than ever for what is to come.

Looking ahead to the future, we know there is more work to be done. The Trust still has 200,000 acres of vibrant rangeland awaiting funding for conservation. These are the places that provide healthy food to eat, clean water to drink, fresh air to breathe, vibrant habitat for wildlife to thrive, critical buffer zones for wildfire protection, and scenic viewsheds. These lands are the lifeblood of our state and protecting them matters for all of us.

The Rangeland Trust has conservation projects spanning from Siskiyou County to San Diego County and from the Nevada border to the Pacific Ocean. These lands are part of the fabric of your local communities. They are in your own backyards, and the Trust is working to protect them. That is why our organization was structured to create zones of two or three counties with at least one local board member to represent each region. One of my top priorities as your chairman is to help showcase how the Rangeland Trust is *your* local land trust.

When you get involved and support conservation, you are making an investment in your local region. The progress we make together today will translate into big results in the future for California's working rangelands and the communities they support.

Sincerely,



Andy Mills

Andy Mills
Board Chairman

DO MORE WITH YOUR DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Donor advised funds (DAF) can be a convenient and easy way to organize your charitable intentions. They can enable you to support causes that are important to you each year, like rangeland conservation, and let you act fast when urgent needs and opportunities arise.

Have you used your DAF to the fullest? Here are some ideas:

- ★ Itemize your taxes to realize an income tax charitable deduction from DAF contributions.
- ★ Transfer complex assets, such as real estate or business interests, into your DAF account without incurring capital gains taxes.
- ★ Build a family tradition of giving by involving children in the decisions about what grants to recommend.

The simplicity and tax savings of a DAF likely attracted you to it, but did you know that these same advantages continue when you designate the balance of a DAF to support organizations like the Rangeland Trust after your lifetime?

Hopefully, you are maximizing your DAF to impact the causes you care about today. In addition, you can choose to have any remaining DAF funds distributed to the California Rangeland Trust after you pass by naming us as a beneficiary of all or a portion of those funds.

If you would like to use your DAF to extend your impact at the Rangeland Trust or are interested in learning more about setting up a new DAF, please contact **Shannon Foucault** at **(916) 444-2096** or **sfoucault@rangelandtrust.org**.



LEGACY COUNCIL

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

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JUST LIKE FAMILY: HOLLENCREST CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

When the California Rangeland Trust conserves a ranch, we become responsible for the stewardship of that property in perpetuity. Thus, for every project, the Rangeland Trust establishes an endowed fund that will allow us to continue to monitor the health of those lands forever. As our portfolio of conserved ranches has grown, so has our endowment. In 2012, the organization was searching for a new company to manage our endowment assets. Hollencrest Capital Management of Newport Beach threw their hat in the ring and sent Co-Founders and Managing Directors Rob Wolford and Greg Pellizzon to make a presentation to the Board.

"We wanted to increase our portfolio of non-profit clients," said Rob. "The Rangeland Trust is a little different than our typical client, but when we learned about the mission of the organization, we were grateful for the opportunity to serve the organization. We showed up in suits to compete for the account and were thrilled when we were told 'You got the contract, but please don't ever show up in suits again!'"

That was the start of a wonderful partnership that has grown beyond simple advisor-client relations. According to Greg, "Our business is focused on multi-generational families. We are good at managing that and we try to preserve that. The Rangeland Trust is also family driven with a long-term horizon so we understand that focus and felt like we could serve the organization effectively."

Over the last decade both organizations have grown alongside each other. At the inception of the partnership, the Rangeland Trust had approximately \$4 million in endowed funds. Hollencrest worked with the Board and staff to develop an investment strategy and create a relationship built on communication, transparency, and trust. Today, the Rangeland Trust's endowment exceeds \$40 million. At the same time, Hollencrest has experienced its own growth and has nearly doubled in size, going from \$1.4 billion in assets under management to nearly \$3 billion today.

The relationship has deepened in other ways as well. "We now understand the mission and the cause much better," said Rob. "We've grown alongside you and we see the impact that the organization has on California's economy, culture, and environment. We are thankful to have been the Rangeland Trust's collaborative partner during this growth phase."

Beginning in 2014, Hollencrest became one of the organization's top annual funders. Then, in 2020, their new institutional minority partner informed the partners that they no longer wanted company assets used for charitable purposes. In most cases, that would have signaled the end of the philanthropic support. Instead, Rob and Greg – along with their third partner, Greg's brother Peter – decided to continue their support personally.

"The Rangeland Trust isn't our only non-profit client. And, as money managers, we are frequently asked to support our clients' charitable causes. We can't support everyone, but the Rangeland Trust is sacred to us," said Rob.

"The people at the Rangeland Trust are the salt of the earth and have become our friends. Your mission is something that we feel is worthy of our continued support," added Peter.

"The ranching culture, the work ethic, the moral code that the Rangeland Trust represents, these are the best things about America. These are values that need to be reinforced and maintained. So, the three of us want to support that," offers Greg. "Everyone associated with the organization is so humble and gracious and fun. We have a commitment to the Rangeland Trust, and we want to see the organization continue to succeed and win."

In closing, all three partners share similar sentiments. They have a commitment to the organization and will go above and beyond to see it succeed. From serving as a resource to various Board committees to sponsoring and co-hosting events to attending every Board meeting in person and providing detailed and informative market research and account reports. "We want to protect the organization and the Board. We have blended the Hollencrest family with the Rangeland Trust family. The staff and Board have become so much more than clients to us, and we're committed to seeing the organization thrive for the next 100 years."



Rob Wolford, Greg Pellizzon, and Peter Pellizzon of Hollencrest Capital Management.

SPRING VALLEY RANCH TOUR

On February 25, 2022, Bob Slobe and the California Rangeland Trust hosted a group of California's top decision-makers on a tour of the Spring Valley Ranch, located west of Williams, CA. Those in attendance included: California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross, Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (4th District), and staffers for Assembly Minority Leader James Gallagher (3rd District) and Senator Jim Nielsen (4th District).

The afternoon kicked off with a delicious picnic lunch out on the land, during which CEO Michael Delbar discussed the important role working lands conservation plays in maintaining biodiversity and improving climate resiliency. After lunch, the group loaded into vehicles to tour the sweeping 7,500-acre property. After spending nearly 4 hours driving around the ranch and learning about the ranch's rich history and current grazing operations, it was clear to all in attendance that these lands, and the people who steward them, provide significant benefits to the people of California.



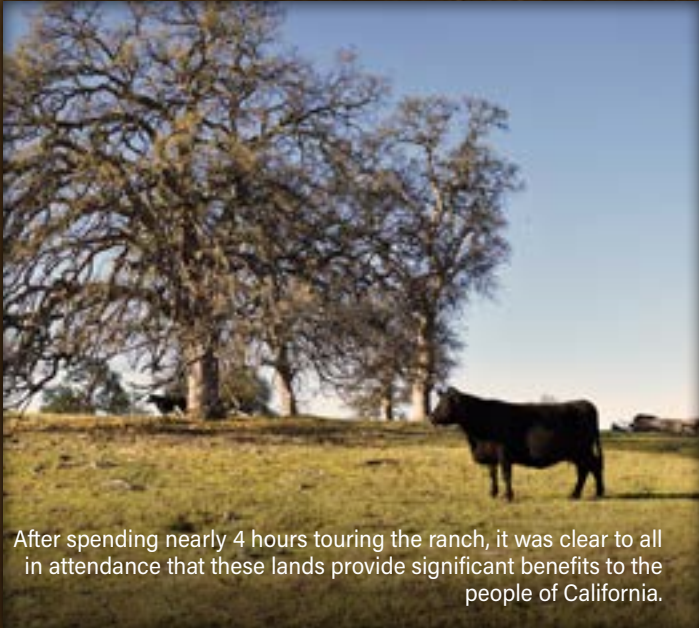
During lunch, CEO Michael Delbar discussed the important role that working lands play in maintaining biodiversity and improving climate resiliency.



Pictured Left to Right: Kimberly Mueller, Spring Valley Ranch Owner Bob Slobe, Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross, California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot, and Rangeland Trust CEO Michael Delbar.



Bob Slobe gave attendees an overview of the Spring Valley Ranch's rich history and current grazing operations.



After spending nearly 4 hours touring the ranch, it was clear to all in attendance that these lands provide significant benefits to the people of California.

THE SPANISH RANCH IS READY FOR CONSERVATION

Nestled in the Cuyama Valley, the Spanish Ranch is a breathtaking landscape that harkens back to the days of the Old West and the vaqueros. Located in one of the last undeveloped coastal valleys in Central California, this is a rare place where history, ranching tradition and wildlife resources have thrived for hundreds of years.

The Spanish Ranch dates back to an 1843 Mexican land grant, and the original adobe homestead is still functioning today. This special place inspires many in the local community by providing tours, youth activities, fundraisers, and of course, all the natural benefits made possible on well-managed working lands.

The Ranch also protects critical wildlife habitat. Tule elk herds migrate through the region, along with more than 35 other threatened or endangered wildlife species who rely on the native vegetation and natural springs stewarded by the landowners.

Families come to the Rangeland Trust to conserve their lands for many different reasons. For this family, not only is it one more thing they can do to care for the region, they also want to ensure that future generations can continue to steward this land and keep it healthy – especially when local water resources are becoming more and more scarce.

This is where you come in. By helping to conserve the Spanish Ranch, YOU can ensure this working landscape and the open space, water, and wildlife are protected forever.

It is scary how rapidly we are losing rangelands in California. According to a recent study conducted by the American Farmland Trust between 2001 and 2016, 465,000 acres of agricultural land – nearly the size of New York and LA combined – were developed. Once lost, these lands almost never return back to their original state.

This is why we need you to help fight back. **Since 1998, you’ve been part of conserving more than 365,000 acres of rangeland.** As our movement has grown, we no longer have to rely solely on government agencies for funding because forward-thinking individuals like you are stepping up to conserve places like the Spanish Ranch.

In 2018, hundreds of community members statewide rallied together to conserve the 300-acre Rock Front Ranch on the other end of the Cuyama Valley. In 2020, supporters stepped up again to help conserve the 600-acre Bloom Ranch in the midst of a pandemic. *You made this possible.* These first community-funded projects mean two valuable ranches and their families now have peace of mind knowing that their lands will be available and thriving for the next generation. This is the power and vision of Rangeland Trust supporters!

Like many other ranchers, the owners of the Spanish Ranch have the same dream. And now is the time because we are so close to meeting our goal. **At 5,652 acres, the Spanish Ranch could be our biggest community-supported project to-date.** You have seen the impact of our Rangeland Trust community in the many valuable lands you have helped conserve. By supporting conservation of the Spanish Ranch, you can send a strong statement to funding partners, neighbors, and the whole state about how you want the future of our iconic landscapes to look.

Will you answer the call and give to conserve the Spanish Ranch?

USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE OR VISIT WWW.RANGELANDTRUST.ORG/SPANISHRANCH TO MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY.

“FROM THE GROUND UP: HEALING OUR PLANET, HEALING OURSELVES,” CALIFORNIA RANGELAND TRUST’S NEW SHORT FILM IS TAKING OFF

Have you seen California Rangeland Trust’s new short film, *From the Ground Up: Healing Our Planet, Healing Ourselves*? As of press time, this groundbreaking film has been viewed more than 10,000 times, and we are so excited to share it with you!

The film features a rancher conservationist who sponsors a PTSD recovery program for veterans on his land, as well as a rancher who recently conserved her family ranch. The film also highlights a UC Berkeley scientist whose new study demonstrates the return on investment of protecting ranchland. Finally, Rangeland Trust CEO Michael Delbar brings home this timely message by sharing what he learned following a devastating wildfire on his family’s land. The result is a remarkable tribute showcasing the many ways well-stewarded rangelands can restore mind, body, soul, and planet.

Thank you for partnering with us to tell these stories! Your support enables us to bring together people from all walks of life to help them form their own connections to these working landscapes. Together, we can showcase the power of rangelands to heal from the ground up.

VIEW THE FILM AT: WWW.RANGELANDTRUST.ORG/FROM-THE-GROUND-UP/ AND JOIN US IN SHARING WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES!



CALIFORNIA RANGELAND TRUST RELEASES NEW PODCAST: “TUNED IN TO THE LAND”

The California Rangeland Trust is thrilled to bring you its new monthly podcast, *Tuned In To The Land*. Hosted by CEO Michael Delbar, the podcast features long-form conversations about ranching, conservation, land use, wildlife, fire prevention, and so much more! Special guests include partners, scientists, conservationists, and landowners who exemplify the importance of preserving California’s working lands through their lives and careers. Tune in every month to learn how you can get involved in preserving the future of the Golden State for generations to come.

LISTEN TO THE PODCAST AT: RANGELANDTRUST.ORG/PODCAST/ AND BE SURE TO SUBSCRIBE SO YOU KNOW WHEN A NEW EPISODE IS RELEASED!



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IN MEMORY OF GEORGE COSTA

ALYSSA AND MATTHEW ROLEN
IN MEMORY OF BERNIE CARTWRIGHT

DAN AND ANNE RUDOLPH
IN MEMORY OF JACK E. RUSSELL

KIM SAWTELLE
*IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM JAMES ORENA
KING*

JESSICA SCHLEY
*IN MEMORY OF WOLCOTT SCHLEY,
BROKEN ARROW RANCH*

LINDA STOCKING
IN MEMORY OF STEVE STOCKING

DARREL AND KAREN SWEET
IN MEMORY OF BRUCE HAFENFELD

BILL AND SALLY WEITKAMP
IN MEMORY OF W. JAMES CLAWSON

BILL AND SALLY WEITKAMP
IN MEMORY OF JIM SINTON

PEGGY WILEY AND WILSON QUARRE
*IN MEMORY OF CHARLES MOHUN
QUARRE*

JERRY RUSSELL IN MEMORIAM



Jerry Cairns Russell passed peacefully on December 2, 2021, surrounded by his wife, Marilyn, and two best friends at the New Haven Care Home in Livermore, CA. Jerry had struggled with Parkinson's disease for the past eight years, although the last two were the most challenging for the active outdoorsman.

Born in Berkeley, California on August 8, 1936, Jerry was the first child of Ward Cairns Russell and Frances Owens Russell. Jerry attended schools in Berkeley and graduated from Berkeley High School in 1954. He majored in industrial engineering at San Jose State. He left before graduation to enlist in the Army and served in Germany (1959-1962) where he worked on tanks and honed his skills as a machinist. After his service, he was employed as a mechanical technician in the Nuclear Test Engineering Division at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory for 30 years (1963-1993).

Jerry met Marilyn in 1965 at the Oakland Airport on a research project studying burrowing owls. They were married in 1967 and had 54 amazing years together.

Jerry's most favorite activities were camping, hunting, and visiting with friends and family at the 5000-acre Sagehorn-Russell Ranch in Mendocino County, which has been in Marilyn's family since 1948. In 2017, the Russells donated the development rights on their Sagehorn-Russell Ranch through a conservation agreement with the Rangeland Trust. In recognition of their topnotch stewardship and commitment to volunteer conservation, Jerry and Marilyn were named the 2019 Conservationists of the Year by the Rangeland Trust.

Jerry always enjoyed sharing his love of the outdoors and observing wildlife with others. Jerry was loved by his friends for his zest for life, energy, and tireless willingness to help others. He was kind, generous, patient, thoughtful, and very capable. He also had a keen sense of humor and often a unique perspective. He will be missed, most of all by Marilyn who described Jerry as the "wind beneath her wings." May he soar with the eagles now.

DON TOMPKINS IN MEMORIAM



Edward "Don" Tompkins passed away on Friday, December 17, 2021 in Sacramento, CA at UC Davis Medical Center with his family by his side. He lived in Guinda, CA with his wife of 61 years, Merrie.

Don was born on March 30, 1934 in Paso Robles, CA. Don graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo (where he was an Alpha Zeta Scholar) in 1959 with a degree in Animal Science. He served in the U.S. Army Veterinary Food Inspection Service, Presidio of San Francisco (1955-1957 and 1959-1959). He also worked as Fieldman at Yolo Farm Supply Co. (1960-1963), was employed by Glenn Co. Department of Agriculture as an Agricultural Biologist/Weights & Measures Inspector III (1964-1970), and worked for the Lake County Department of Agriculture as the Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Deputy Sealer of Weights & Measures (1971-1978). Don was then appointed Agricultural Commission/Sealer of Weights & Measures/ Animal Control Director, a role he served in from 1978 until he retired in 1989.

In 1960, Don moved to the Capay Valley in Yolo County to manage and operate TS Ranches, which consisted of multiple ranchlands throughout California and Oregon. He managed the properties until his parent's estate was distributed to him and his siblings in 1991. He also had his own cow-calf operation which operated on his ranch in Guinda and across various leased lands in California and Oregon.

Don was a member and involved in a variety of organizations including: the California Cattlemen's Association, Yolo County Cattlemen's and Wool Growers, Yolo County Farm Bureau Board, Western Yolo Grange No. 421, Capay Valley Grown, Capay Valley Watershed Stakeholders Group, Capay Valley General Plan Advisory Committee, California Gelbvieh Association, Western Beefmasters Breeders Association, California Agricultural Commissioners/Sealers of Weights & Measures Association.

Don was a longtime supporter of the Rangeland Trust, attending nearly every board meeting held in conjunction with the California Cattlemen's Association mid-year and annual meetings. In 2020, Don and Merrie partnered with the Rangeland Trust to conserve the TS Ranch in Guinda. Rather than receiving the total easement value, a large portion of the value was donated by the Tompkins to ensure the ranch's continuity after their passing. Don had a conservation ethic and true love for the land; he and Merrie were proud to see their beloved ranch forever protected. Don will be missed by all who knew him.

WIND WOLVES PRESERVE CONT.

Alex Size, the Southern California Land Protection Director for TPL, said, "The DOD likes to look to the next 100 to 200 years, and though the ground was protected now by The Wildlands Conservancy, the fear that it could be developed in the distant future was too much of a risk for them to not get involved."

The Conservancy and TPL needed an organization to hold and manage the easement so they sought out the Rangeland Trust.

"We were under a very tight timeline to meet the requirements of the REPI program," explained Frazier Haney, The Wildlands Conservancy Executive Director. "So, we needed a conservation group that was methodical and organized and we found that in the California Rangeland Trust."

To maintain habitat and beauty of the land, the Conservancy employs an ecologically based grazing program. The 14,000-acre conserved portion of the Preserve hosts 3,500 head of cattle seasonally. Livestock grazing helps to improve biodiversity by reducing invasive plant species so native grasses and wildflowers can thrive. It also helps to mitigate wildfire hazards by removing dry grasses and vegetation that act as fuel for spreading flames.

"You have to have cattle on a ranch of this magnitude, and the DOD recognizes that," Size explained. "We applaud The Wildlands Conservancy for doing it right and protecting the land through thoughtful grazing."

By placing a restrictive use easement on the designated portion of the preserve, the DOD has been able to minimize the risk of potential injury or disruption to the public in the event of an accident. Meanwhile, the Conservancy finds comfort knowing that the land will remain just as it is today forever and continue to benefit the public for generations to come.

The Conservancy sticks to its dual mission to preserve the land's beauty and educate the public, by allowing for free, public access to the Preserve. More than 60,000 visitors enjoy the property each year, utilizing biking and hiking trails, camping, and interpretive programs.

Michael Delbar, California Rangeland Trust CEO, explained, "This Preserve is important in so many ways, but the opportunities it provides to the public to get out and enjoy the open space is priceless. We are excited to be able to play a small part in protecting that."

With the success of this easement and the value this landscape provides both on the ground and to the sky above, the three organizations are hoping to continue efforts to protect the 93,000-acre Wind Wolves Preserve in its entirety. "Rangeland conservation matters to and for everyone, and this unification of Trust for Public Land, The Wildlands Conservancy, and the Rangeland Trust perfectly demonstrates that," said Delbar. "We look forward to furthering this partnership to conserve more of California's vital, magnificent working rangelands."



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One of the ways you can support the California Rangeland Trust and our mission – to serve the land, people, and wildlife by conserving the state's working rangelands – is to spread the word on social media. You can unite people with diverse backgrounds and interests and help establish common ground in conserving these precious landscapes. At the end of the day, preserving California's vast rangelands does not simply benefit one niche community, it supports all Californians!

Help us start this conversation with a broader audience by liking, sharing, and commenting on our posts!

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