

# RANGELAND NEWS

WINTER 2023

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Our Mission: To serve the land, people, and wildlife by conserving California's working rangelands

# NAKAGAWA RANCH: AN UNWAVERING SPIRIT OF RESILIENCE

Yokichi Nakagawa immigrated to the United States from Hiroshima, Japan, in 1904 in pursuit of the American dream. He sought to acquire his own land and live out his days farming with his family.

"My grandfather had a strong interest in farming, specifically in vineyard management, and he was determined to make a living doing that in America," Glenn Nakagawa, Yokichi's grandson, explained.

Unfortunately, American land policies at the time prevented Asian immigrants from owning land, but this did not deter Yokichi. For 37 long years, he held on to his aspirations while starting a family and establishing himself as a prominent figure amongst the Japanese American community.

On December 5, 1941, his dream was realized when his United States-born son, Percy Nakagawa, was able to sign the deed on a 425-acre ranch in Acampo, California. But sadly, this realization was short-lived, at least temporarily.

Just two days after signing the deed, the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor took place, and the subsequent events that occured postponed the family's chance to establish themselves on the land. This represented a dark time in American history.

Within five months of the attack, and following Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order authorizing the relocation of many Japanese Americans, the family was tragically forced to leave their ranch behind and enter an internment camp. While most families that were relocated lost everything, forced to leave behind whatever they could not carry, the Nakagawas were



Nakagawa family photo circa 1953, taken just before the tragic loss of the family patriarchs, Yokichi and Percy.

fortunate enough to entrust their land to a friend until they could return.

After four grueling years, the family was finally allowed to return to Acampo in 1946 and start piecing their lives back together. Unfortunately, the land they had left behind was no longer the haven it once was – most of the property had gone unmanaged during their time away. The Nakagawa family banded together to restore the ranch back to its original glory and get their business off the ground by planting Tokay grapes and a variety of squash.

For a few years, things went well. They reestablished themselves on the land and within their community. But

(Continued on page 15)

### Nakagawa Ranch, Calaveras County

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### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Katerina Webster, Transaction Specialist Joyce Vitug, Development and Events Associate

Kassie Yde, Executive Assistant Justin Gallo, Rangeland Steward

## LEADERSHIP LETTER

### Dear Friend,

What a remarkable 25th anniversary year it has been. Over the last 12 months, we've taken time to celebrate. We've also taken time to look ahead and set our sights on future goals and initiatives (*See Pg. 13*). And now, we want to take some time to reiterate our gratitude and say THANK YOU to you and this wonderful community of Rangeland Trust enthusiasts.

You may remember the story of the Rangeland Trust's founding that we shared in an earlier newsletter. In the beginning, the hope was that the Rangeland Trust would be able to help a few ranching families stay in business and maintain the economic viability of their ranching operations, and along with it, the environmental characteristics of their land.

Instead of helping just "a few" ranching families, the Rangeland Trust has been able to partner with **89 ranching families** to permanently protect more than **389,000 acres of pristine rangeland** over the last two and a half decades. <u>And we've been able to do that because</u> <u>of YOU and your support</u>. We know that without your generosity and the vision of our conservation partners, donors, volunteers, and the greater ranching community, the Rangeland Trust would not be where it is today.

When you preserve our state's working landscapes, Californians from rural and urban areas alike benefit from the wealth of natural resources, strength of community, and improved quality of life made possible *because* of conservation.

As we end this year on a high note, recognizing the positive impact of our work on the future of the Golden State, we are excited to carry this momentum forward to make more conservation possible for more ranching families. Thank you for being part of the Rangeland Trust's story and helping us secure a bright and sustainable future by keeping ranchers ranching.

Sincerely,

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Michael Delbar

## WORKPLACE GIVING

## **Earthshare**

California Rangeland Trust is proud to be a Nonprofit Partner of EarthShare, a nationwide alliance of environmental nonprofits. When you give through EarthShare, you pledge a small amount from each paycheck to support rangeland conservation. Imagine the impact of contributing \$20 per paycheck-you'll be making an annual gift of \$480 to help conserve California's working rangelands.

If you are a federal employee or member of the U.S. military, you can participate in one of EarthShare's many workplace giving campaigns. You can also find EarthShare in many of America's top companies like American Express.

For more information on giving through your workplace, visit www.earthshare.org, or check with your HR department to see if your employer offers this convenient way to give.



## **Matching Gifts**

Many employers offer the opportunity to boost their employees' philanthropic contributions by generously matching their donations. For instance, a \$100 gift by you, matched by your employer, equates to \$200 of vital support for conservation. Typically, this process involves filling out a simple form from your company. Check with your employer to see if they offer gift matching.

## **Monthly Giving**

Have you considered the convenience of monthly donations? Becoming a monthly donor allows you to spread your support over time, making it more manageable while ensuring your commitment to conservation. Sign up to be a monthly donor through California Rangeland Trust's website at www.rangelandtrust.org or call us at (916) 444-2096, and take this opportunity to maximize your impact on protecting our working lands.

EDITOR/LAYOUT ALYSSA ROLEN

### **CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

STEVE BLANK, MICHAEL DELBAR, BRENT DUKA, SHANNON FOUCAULT, MADISON GOSS, ALYSSA ROLEN

### **PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS**

TERRI ARINGTON, STEVE BLANK, MADISON GOSS, SHANNON FOUCAULT, NAKAGAWA FAMILY

State of the local

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California Rangeland Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, federal tax identification #31-1631453.



## LEGACY COUNCIL

The California Rangeland Trust Legacy Council is hard at work raising awareness in support of rangeland conservation.

**CHAIR** Jessica Schley

**MEMBERS** 

Michael Campbell Pam Doiron Devere Dressler Glenn Drown Angelo Genasci Valerie Gordon Alexandra Gough George and Kassandra Gough Erik Gregersen Sherry Harkins Bruce and Elizabeth Hart B. Wayne Hughes Jr. Natasha Hunt Eric Hvolboll Caroline Power Kindrish Lvnn Kirst Richard and Sharon Kline Tim Koopmann Jack Kuechler Ken and Julie LaGrande Eric and Megan Lindberg Paul and Tina McEnroe Morris Noble Jr. Will and Danice Noble Haves and Patricia Noel Rvlee Pedotti Steve and Liz Peterson Steve and Jane Sinton Scott and Karen Stone Adrianna Pope Sullivan **Emily Taylor** Molly Taylor Ben and Cheryl Trosky John Vosburgh

## THANK YOU DONORS

### AUGUST 1, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2023

### ANONYMOUS

LORRAINE BAZAN\*

BENEVITY COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND

DOUG AND PATTY CAMPBELL

SARAH CASE

NATE CHANCE\*

BILL AND LOUISE CONNELL\*

MICHAEL AND KATIE DELBAR

TERRY AND DC DUGAN

**BRENT DUKA** 

**RON EKELUND** 

KIM AND DAVE ERICKSON

DIANE ERICKSON

MARCIA EYHERABIDE

FIDELITY CHARITABLE BERT AND CANDEE FORBES\* LESLIE AND GAIL FREEMAN\*

**ISABELLA AND LAUNCE L. GAMBLE** 

GEORGE AND RUTH BRADFORD FOUNDATION

MADISON GOSS

GRAND NATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

LINDSEY HAHN SPAAK

JACK AND DARCY HANSON\*+

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HARVEY L. SORENSON AND MAUD C. SORENSON FOUNDATION

THE HERBST FOUNDATION

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SUSAN LYON\*

EMILY MCDONNELL

МЕТА

STEPHEN AND LADEEN MILLER

ANITA MORAN SLICTON AND MARY ANN MORAN NOUNTED PATROL OF SAN MATEO COUNTY RICHARD PALMATEER RANCHO SISQUOC LEE AND BONNIE ROSSER THOMAS SAGER SCHWAB CHARITABLE SIMPLE GENEROSITY JOHN AND JUDY SEMAS BARBARA STEINBERG\* KAREN SWAEBY\* TARGET SCOTT AND PATTY THOMPSON, GOODWIN RANCH+

\*SILVER SPURS

+COMPLETED CONSERVATION PARTNER

## MEMORIALS

JON AND JODY SEMPER\* IN MEMORY OF JOHN ANDREINI

**TERRI ARINGTON\*** *IN MEMORY OF RON ARINGTON* 

MICHAEL AND KATIE DELBAR IN MEMORY OF CLYDE BLUNDELL

MICHAEL AND KATIE DELBAR IN MEMORY OF PETE CAREY

ANDY AND CANDY MILLS IN MEMORY OF PETE CAREY

KEN AND JACKIE FULGHAM IN MEMORY OF W. JAMES CLAWSON

MELVIN GEORGE\* IN MEMORY OF W. JAMES CLAWSON

Rangeland Trust

MICHAEL AND KATIE DELBAR IN MEMORY OF SALLY FRIEND

MADISON GOSS IN MEMORY OF SALLY FRIEND

ANDY AND CANDY MILLS IN MEMORY OF SALLY FRIEND

JOE JAUREGUI IN MEMORY OF JA "TOOTS" JAUREGUI

LOWELL MCDONNELL IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM "BILL" KING

**BRUCE AND ELIZABETH HART** *IN MEMORY OF MIKE AND KRISTINE LAGRANDE* 

4

MICHAEL AND KATIE DELBAR IN MEMORY OF KIM LUCAS ANDY AND CANDY MILLS IN MEMORY OF KIM LUCAS

**FFFIF WESTERVELT\*** 

MICHAEL AND KATIE DELBAR IN MEMORY OF SAMI MACON

ANDY AND CANDY MILLS IN MEMORY OF SAMI MACON

**KEARNEY AND LESLIE MARTINS** *IN MEMORY OF GATHA, JIM AND SALLY MARTINS* 

MICHAEL AND KATIE DELBAR IN MEMORY OF SHARON OPENSHAW

GARY AND WANDA JOHNSON IN MEMORY OF ROBERT PARDINI

ADRIANNA POPE SULIVAN IN MEMORY OF GEORGE POPE III

## SkyRose Ranch Getaway

Nine guests and staff enjoyed a ranch weekend getaway at the SkyRose Ranch in San Miguel, CA. Attendees were treated to a whiskey tasting by Re:Find Distillery, enjoyed a trail ride to lunch among the oak trees overlooking the 22,000-acre conserved ranch, and visited the neighboring Sandy Creek Ranch for some trap shooting. Jack Varian and his son, Greg, from the V6 Ranch also joined the group for dinner one evening and talked about their experience conserving their ranch and the importance of protecting our rangelands. Throughout the weekend guests were treated to delicious meals, fantastic wines, and magnificent accommodations.

This annual event allows us to engage with current and potential supporters in a unique way, as we work to achieve transformational impact for California's rangelands through our major gifts program. We cannot begin to thank SkyRose Ranch owner, B. Wayne Hughes, Jr.; Sandy Creek Ranch owner, Eric Lindberg; and the staff of the SkyRose Ranch for their generous hospitality.









# FALL EVENTS



## Rangeland Trust Birthday Party

In September, we held a gathering at our new office building to commemorate the Rangeland Trust's 25th "birthday". Approximately 50 friends of the organization joined us for an afternoon reception filled with cake, conversation, and celebration for conservation. Special thank you to our friends at Raley's for providing the food and to everyone who attended.



Winter Newsletter 2023

# WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS



## BRENT DUKA ANNUAL GIVING MANAGER

Brent Duka, a proud native of California, was born and raised in this vibrant state known for its diverse landscapes and abundant opportunities. After completing his Bachelor's Degree in Business at San Jose State University, he returned to earn his teaching credential. Driven by a desire to make a meaningful impact in education, he spent 12 years in the classroom cultivating a love for learning in his students. Outside the classroom, Brent's love for the outdoors included bike rides, hikes with family, and anything else that would get him in front of California's breathtaking vistas. Motivated to make a difference in the conservation efforts of California's natural resources, he transitioned to a career at the California Rangeland Trust. As a fundraiser, he actively works to develop the means necessary to protect and preserve the state's vast rangelands for future generations to come.



## MIKE NORBERG ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST

Mike grew up in a small town in North Carolina where he developed a passion for wildlife and the outdoors. He later moved to California to attend Chico State University. He studied and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. Before joining the California Rangeland Trust, he utilized his degree in various industries including construction, residential and commercial real estate, gas & oil, and software consulting. In his free time, Mike enjoys spending time outside and traveling.



## **ROBIN HANSON** PROGRAMS MANAGER

Robin Hanson is the 6<sup>th</sup> generation of her family to live on the land they farm and ranch in Zamora, CA. Growing up, she was actively involved in her local 4-H & FFA programs and developed a love for calf brandings at a young age. She discovered her interest in conservation at Chico State, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Recreation Administration, with a focus on Parks & Natural Resources. She has a cow-calf operation that she runs with her father and sister in the Sacramento Valley, while also helping her husband's family with their cattle ranch in the high desert of Northeastern California. Robin loves to be active in her local community and doing just about anything in the great outdoors. Robin joined California Rangeland Trust in 2023, excited to combine her love of agriculture, wide open spaces, and the ranching community with her passion for conservation.



Katerina Webster's journey into the agricultural industry was inspired by her upbringing in San Mateo County, having little to no exposure to agriculture. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Business from California State University, Chico, she embarked on a mission to "bridge the gap" between farmers, ranchers, and consumers while sharing their compelling stories. Post-graduation, Katerina launched her career with Glenn County RCD, where she navigated the intricacies of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, aiding farmers in meeting complex reporting requirements. She then transitioned to the Irrigated Lands Program at Yolo County Farm Bureau, where her passion for advocacy and program administration continued to flourish. She then went on to work in production agriculture before coming to the California Rangeland Trust. Throughout her journey, Katerina's enthusiasm remains focused on amplifying the narratives of farmers and ranchers and encouraging the protection of California's working lands.

## KATERINA WEBSTER LAND TRANSACTION SPECIALIST

## CREATING BALANCE IN CALIFORNIA

Meeting the demands of a state that looks after a population of 40 million is an immense challenge. It requires thoughtful consideration of all of its inhabitants.

We are all witnessing the growing need for smart land development and housing in California. Accommodating our growing population, however, must not overshadow the significance of preserving the very elements that sustain it. The food we eat, the water we drink, and the clean air we breathe are all closely tied to the conservation of our rangelands. Therefore, we are left with the task of balancing the needs of humans and those of nature.

California's status as the largest economy and most populous in the nation makes it a polarizing battleground in the fight against unchecked development. We need a balanced approach to land development. The importance of your role in creating this balance cannot be overstated. Conserving rangeland helps safeguard essential natural resources and contribute to the well-being and guality of life in our communities.

Supporters like you have already helped conserve nearly 400,000 acres of irreplaceable rangeland through the Rangeland Trust. These lands are indispensable. If they are paved over, they're lost forever.

- How will we adapt to less fresh water?
- Where will our food come from?
- And where will the countless species who rely on these rangelands end up?

These are all questions that would need answering if California's rangelands continue to be thought of simply as open spaces for development. Rather, these lands provide a constant stream of reliable and sustainable resources.

The land needs us. And we need the land. Let's reinforce our commitment to stewardship and balance in a rapidly changing world.

Your gift has the power to protect these lands and the people who depend on them.

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your gift today.



## DEDICATED TO THE LAND: A DONOR SPOTLIGHT ON TERRI ARINGTON



"Once the land is paved over, it never comes back."

Born and raised in the bustling town of San Francisco, Terri Arington knows development when she sees it. "Once development occurs, these rangelands are gone forever. We need to conserve what we still have, or we're going to lose it."

A native of California, Terri is no stranger to the state's extraordinary landscape. She has fond memories with her family going camping and fishing throughout her childhood. Despite growing up in a big city, Terri feels grateful to look back on an upbringing that prioritized getting outdoors and appreciating nature.

Terri always kept a desire to continue this lifestyle and connect with those who shared an affinity for the outdoors. This was exactly what Terri found when she met Ron during her first job packing mules and prepping horses in Northern California's Trinity Alps. "I had found someone who shared a love for this lifestyle. I remember some days after work, we would grab a couple of horses and just take a ride at sunset." Ron and Terri soon tied the knot, and they embarked on a beautiful life together.

For almost 30 years, the Aringtons devoted themselves to teaching upcoming generations about the importance of agriculture. Ron taught agricultural sciences at Sonora High School. As Ron was busy dedicating himself to the thousands of students he taught over a 28-year teaching career, Terri was right there with him involved in many of the instructional activities.

They also found time to help local ranchers in their home community of Tuolumne County. Whether it was running cattle or branding livestock, they searched for ways to help out wherever they could. In fact, many of these ranchers were Ron and Terri's students' families, or students themselves! It was always common, and delightful, for them to come across their students. After all, the youth are the future custodians of the earth.

Retirement did not slow this pair down; in addition to continuing their support for local ranchers, they took on roles as forest service volunteers helping to maintain trails and ensure safe paths for hikers. In classic Ron and Terri fashion, they would stay the evening and camp out on the grounds where they labored that day. Their enduring affection for the land remained steadfast.

After a lifetime filled with cherished moments, Ron and Terri faced an untimely farewell with Ron's sudden passing. Ron and Terri were doing what they loved - helping out friends at a local property, when Ron suffered a tragic ranching accident. He's remembered by the thousands of lives he touched as a husband, teacher, and friend.

Reflecting on the profound loss of Ron, Terri shares that she still receives reminders of how many lives he impacted. Honoring their traditions together, Terri continues to help local ranchers. She also carries on their legacy of educating the youth in agriculture. "I am still involved with FFA, 4-H, and I sponsor scholarships at all three of our local high schools. These kids are our future."

Terri is still finding ways to steward the land and uphold the traditions of western heritage. She heard about California Rangeland Trust through her local community back in 2014. She has been a donor for almost 10 years, and her charitable giving has qualified her to become a member of the Silver Spurs. "I appreciate the Rangeland Trust's tireless efforts to preserve and protect the unique, open rangeland in California. We only have so many resources on this earth, and it is up to us to conserve them."

Terri is also grateful for the ranchers who care for these working lands. "They're environmentalists. They protect the land. People think food comes from the grocery store. No, it comes from all the work farmers and ranchers are doing."

Terri has a deep appreciation for the land, and she continues to spend her life cultivating this precious resource. Whether she's helping former students at a local ranch, supporting the Rangeland Trust, or simply taking a stroll and enjoying the outdoors, Terri remains a valuable contributor to our spectacular Golden State. Thank you, Terri!

# 25 YEARS OF IMPACT BY CONSERV ING CALIFORNIA'S RANGELANDS

Take a moment to reflect on how far the Rangeland Trust has come over the last 25 years. Together, we have helped keep ranchers ranching by assisting nearly 100 families achieve their dreams of conservation. The return on this investment stretches far beyond the ranching community. It benefits all Californians by strengthening food security, protecting critical watersheds and wildlife habitat, and preserving biodiversity and scenic environments. Because of you, there is a viable and sustainable future for the land, people, and wildlife of California.



## WHAT ECOSYSTEM SERVICES DO WE GET FROM RANCHES **CONSERVED BY THE RANGELAND TRUST?**



## **25 YEARS OF KEEPING RANCHERS RANCHING**

<ul> <li>1997</li> <li>California Cattler Association (CCA resolution to form land trust</li> <li>CCA appoints a ta lay the ground we formation of wha the California Ran</li> </ul>	A) passes a n a 501(c)(3) ask force, to ork for the t would become Founding t appointed A) Founding t appointed 1998 First easer Earth Range	board, chaired by Steve Sinton, is incorporation signed on July 10, ment is completed on Touch the ch in Calaveras County	<ul> <li>2002</li> <li>50,000-acresurpassed wiconservation Ranch in Sier</li> </ul>	ith the I of the Bar One	Angeland Trust form an alliance with other statewide land trusts create the Partnershi Rangeland Trusts (PC	to receives the p of Environ PRT) Economic P Market Control Economic P Award for c of the H (along with Corporation Land Conse	geland Trust e Governor's mental and Partnerships onservation earst Ranch h the Hearst n, American ervancy, and of California)
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tone conservation in San Luis

## **25 Years of Impact**

Farm Bill passes, a critical

easement funding at the

move for conservation

federal level

# SUSTAINING THE ORGANIZATION

We are in the business of protecting rangelands forever, so long-term financial stewardship of the organization is something we take seriously. Most of our assets are housed in a restricted endowment that provides funding for our stewardship responsibilities, including annual monitoring visits and a legal defense fund, on the more than 389,000 acres that have been protected in perpetuity through the Rangeland Trust. We also started an operational endowment to help cover business costs with the goal of one day sustaining annual operations. The principal amount in these endowments will never be touched, as we use the earnings generated each year toward any corresponding expenses and reinvest funds that are not spent.

## ASSET ALLOCATION★





**ASSET GROWTH** 

## **REVENUE DIVERSIFICATION\***



Over the past decade, we directed our efforts toward diversifying funding sources, with a focus on building a culture of philanthropy to ensure long-term sustainability of the organization. These efforts resulted in greater donor engagement through major, midlevel, and planned giving programs, and greater awareness from our public audience through strategic communications initiatives.

\*Data is based on 2022 audited financials. For more details, please refer to the 2022 Annual Report at www.rangelandtrust.org/annual-reports/

# FUTURE INITIATIVES



## FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION

State and federal environmental funding programs are opening new doors for conserving agricultural lands, while supporting ranchers who manage the land responsibly. The Rangeland Trust continues to maintain good working relationships with state and federal agencies for the benefit of its ranching partners seeking conservation. These efforts are bolstered by increasing support from private donors, foundations and companies who are showing leaders their support for working lands and their stewards.

## **ADVOCACY EFFORTS AND THE 2024 FARM BILL**

As a member of the Partnership of Rangeland Trusts, which represents nine statewide agriculture land trusts, we are providing key information and real-life experiences to federal legislators with the goal of easing program administration and increasing agricultural conservation funding for the next five vears.

## PARTNERS

following Nita Vail

We are excited to share that we have filled our newly created programs manager position to better serve our ranching partners (see Robin Hanson's bio on Pg. 6). The creation of this position will allow the Rangeland Trust to better connect the ranching community to the best available science and tools to support enhanced stewardship practices and help ranchers meet their additive conservation goals, beyond conservation easements alone. Safeguarding the land is only the first part of our commitment to fulfilling our mission. Making sure the land has a healthy future is just as vital.

## SHARING THE VOICES OF OUR RANCHING PARTNERS THROUGH FILM

Next year we will be launching one of our most ambitious projects to date: our award-winning new feature-length documentary. You Just Can't See Them From the Road shows the critical role ranchers play in stewarding our working landscapes and what is at stake if we lose our rangelands and the people who sustain them. We will be holding several movie screenings throughout the state next year, and we hope that you will help us share this message far and wide by inviting your friends and people in your network to view the film. Stay tuned for more information on these upcoming events.

2015 🔘 0 2019 2012 🔘 **2017** Rangeland Trust launches youth First Reunir event is held in 250,000-acre milestone 🖒 0 300,000-acre ranch tour program (Sponsors: Santa Barbara County surpassed with the Raley's, Newman's Own, AT&T) milestone conservation of Payne surpassed with Board adopts a new five-Ranch in Colusa County year strategic plan focused on conserving the land, conservation of the Avenales Ranch in San Luis changing the thinking, and sustaining the organization **Obispo County** 2011 2012 2015 2017 2018 2019 2020 2020 **Q** 2011 2018 🔘 UC Berkeley study is released showing the Rangeland Trust is invited to the White House as a leader in agricultural Farm Bill passes with more funding going to the conservation at the federal level  $\diamondsuit$ environmental benefits of conservation More than 150 donors rally to help fund conservation of the Rock Front Ranch, 🔿 conservation under Obama's America's Michael Delbar takes the reins as CEO. signifying the first project funded entirely by contributions from the community

### **Rangeland Trust**

**Great Outdoors Initiative** 

## FURTHERING OUR COMMITMENT AS A TRUSTED RESOURCE TO OUR RANCHING



## ANNOUNCING: THE VISIONARIES' CIRCLE ENSURING LONG-TERM SUCCESS FOR THE LANDS WE LOVE

Over the years, several of our supporters have made the incredible decision to include the Rangeland Trust as a beneficiary in their wills, trusts, or of their retirement accounts. As this group has grown, we wanted to honor their visionary commitments and find opportunities to celebrate their giving today.

We are therefore thrilled to announce the new Visionaries' Circle for donors who have notified us of their decision to include the Rangeland Trust in their estate plans.

Our Visionaries are a group of forward-thinking people who have used their estate plan to invest in the iconic vistas, thriving wildlife, family stewardship, Western heritage and healthy local foods from California's

working rangelands. They want to ensure that their commitment to preserving California's beauty and resources will benefit future generations.

If this sounds like you, or you are considering this kind of gift, please reach out and let us know so that we can celebrate such a meaningful commitment and welcome you into the Visionaries' Circle!

The benefits of joining the Visionaries' Circle include:

- ★ A complimentary ticket to gatherings and ranch tours to celebrate the impact of your support today
- ★ Invitations to exclusive receptions and programs
- ★ Special opportunities to get to know your fellow Visionaries
- ★ A dedicated staff member to keep you up to date on Rangeland Trust happenings, answer your questions, share stories and stay connected
- ★ Celebratory recognition of your commitment at events, on our website and in our newsletters
- ★ The heartwarming feeling of knowing your legacy will safeguard the future the lands, the people, and the heritage of California

### Will you join us?

**Rangeland Trust** 

You, too, can ensure the Rangeland Trust continues to fight for working lands alongside Californians for generations to come. Please contact Shannon Foucault at (916) 444-2096 or sfoucault@rangelandtrust.org to learn more.

**MEMBERS** HERB AND MAREVA BARTHELS ROBERT W. CARRAU, JR. MICHELLE COX VALERIE GORDON ERIK GREGERSEN SHEILA HEAD LYNN KIRST **COLLEEN LENIHAN KEITH WHITING MOORE** MARILYN RUSSELL STEVE AND JANE SINTON NITA VAIL SHEILA VARIAN\* **REQUESTED ANONYMOUS (4)** 

**VISIONARIES' CIRCLE** 

\* Deceased

## NAKAGAWA RANCH CONT.

in 1953, their serenity was cut short when both Yokichi and Percy passed away on a fishing trip. The family had to, once again, pick up the pieces and find a way to trudge on, together, after the loss of two generations of patriarchs.

Yokichi's daughter, Miyoko, stepped up to take over the operations, and she did so successfully for 52 years. Under her leadership, the family and businesses continued to grow.

Today, the Nakagawa family legacy lives on through Glenn and his wife, Keiko. Together, they have managed the ranch since the early 2000s. Though the family dream is still the same, some of the operations have shifted. The fields that were once squash and grapes are now oat and alfalfa hay. The family has also prioritized conservation efforts to ensure that the family's legacy will live on through the land.

In 2007, they established the Nakagawa Preserve through a conservation easement on 280 acres of their Acampo ranch to protect the property from potential future development. Keiko explained, "Farm and ranch land is disappearing right in front of our eyes; [the easement] was just the right thing to do."

With the funds received from the sale of the easement, the family needed to figure out how to invest the money back into their business. If not utilized properly, they would lose money.

For years, Glenn commuted to the Acampo ranch passing by acres of open space and grazing ground along the way. One day, he noticed that a 380-acre cattle ranch in Valley Springs, California, was up for sale, and he just knew that is where the money should go.

After careful consideration, the Nakagawas decided to purchase the property-executing a 1031 exchange, which allowed them to swap one real estate investment for the other to defer paying capital gains tax and reinvest their money into other projects.

With the new property being comprised of mostly grassland and oak woodlands, the family saw the opportunity to break into a new enterprise, cattle ranching.

It was only after a chance encounter with a Wagyu beef producer that Glenn and Keiko decided to pay homage to their heritage by raising their own herd of this unique Japanese-born breed. For over ten years, the Nakagawas have successfully raised high-quality American Wagyu cattle and sold their beef and cattle all over the state and across the country by marketing their product primarily by word of mouth and through their website (www.nakagawaranches.com).

Glenn proudly shared, "It is a business built on a good product and an honest sale!"

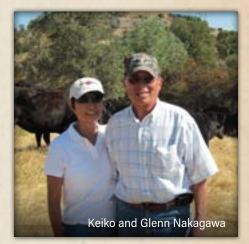
According to a recent study done by the American Farmland Trust, California is on track to lose approximately 797,000 acres of agricultural land by 2040. Due to the region's proximity to the Stockton and Bay Areas, Glenn and Keiko started to feel development pressure as much of the open land around them was being sold off and sub-divided. Wanting to take action, they decided to conserve their Valley Springs ranch, just as they did with their Acampo ranch, and approached the California Rangeland Trust to hold the conservation easement.

Together, the Nakagawas and the Rangeland Trust, with funding from the California Strategic Growth Council's Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), were able to conserve the Valley Springs ranch in its entirety in August of 2023, ensuring that the land will remain a working ranch.

"It is not about the money for us; it is more important than that," Keiko affirmed. "Before we disappear, we want to honor who came before us and ensure there is still something for those after us."

In the face of war, internment, and personal tragedy, the Nakagawa family has persevered. Their ranch, remaining as one of the last Japanese American-owned agricultural enterprises in the United States, stands as a symbol of their unwavering resilience. And though Yokichi has passed on, his indomitable spirit will continue to live through the land and his family's hearts forever. 🕤





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## THE STORY CONTINUES! Join our herd on social media

Social media efforts bring forth the important message of how preserving rangeland concerns not only all Californians, but the world as well. With your support, the Rangeland Trust can reach vast audiences through social media platforms. By "liking," sharing, and commenting on our posts, you are helping us spread the message. We are thankful to everyone who has supported our social media cause.

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