

Protecting the Sierra Valley's Working Heritage

MARTINETTI RANCH WORKING LANDS CONSERVATION EASEMENT

WATER ON THE MARTINETTI RANCH IS AS IMPORTANT TODAY AS IT WAS OVER 100 YEARS AGO WHEN THE ORIGINAL FAMILY MEMBERS FIRST SETTLED THE PROPERTY. THE NATURAL SPRINGS SUPPLY WATER TO THE LANDOWNERS, THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATIONS OF THE MARTINETTI FAMILY, AND ARE HEADWATERS OF A FEDERALLY LISTED WATERWAY AND PRIORITY WATERSHED KNOWN AS THE MIDDLE FORK FEATHER RIVER. THIS WATERWAY PROVIDES ABOUT 5% OF THE WATER ENTERING THE OROVILLE RESERVOIR IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, WHICH PROVIDES DRINKING WATER TO 25 MILLION PEOPLE.

The Martinetti Ranch is surrounded by a national forest, another private forest upslope, and privately owned grasslands on the southern side of California's Sierra Valley. Perpetual conservation of this 610 acre ranch secures a natural corridor, connecting 6,000 acres of protected lands, including public and privately owned forests. The abundant water sources on the Martinetti Ranch are tremendous natural assets for the landowners and the Sierra Valley. In addition to serving as a significant source of water for California, the Sierra Valley is the largest wetland complex in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, the largest mountain valley in the state, and a major stopover on the Pacific Flyway for 260 species of birds.

Stewards of a Working Heritage

The Martinetti family's primary objective is to protect ecologically and economically sustainable resource-based uses of the property, including summer cattle grazing and forest management. By working with Pacific Forest Trust to establish a Working Lands Conservation Easement, agriculture as well as natural springs, fens, aspen woodlands, and riparian stream buffers will be protected.

Cattle grazing will be limited in 107 acres of sensitive habitat including wetlands and riparian areas in order to improve watershed health. Forests will be managed

to maintain a more natural stand structure, providing habitat for wildlife, and, in some areas, timber resources. By maintaining plant and animal habitats for the long-term, the Martinetti family will realize economic benefits in addition to meeting habitat maintenance and enhancement goals.



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Although California remains a difficult state in which to operate, timber production is an important share of the state's economy. The northern Sierra Nevada supports a large timber products economy. These regional qualities ensure long-term access to timber markets.

Fertile Habitat for Plants and Animals

The Martinetti Ranch is made up of many habitat types including, eastside pine forest, Sierran Mixed conifer forest, montane riparian, wet meadow, and fen. Modeling shows that the ranch provides diverse habitat for over 250 wildlife species including a number of threatened, potentially threatened, and rare species listed at the state and federal levels. Species include: bald eagles, Swainson's hawks, ferruginous hawks, prairie falcons, willow flycatchers, greater sandhill cranes, and Sierra Nevada red foxes. The wet meadow and montane riparian habitats act as important migratory stopovers for waterfowl.

Abundant Natural Water Flows

The ranch contains approximately 2.5 miles of Berry Creek (also known as Miller Creek), 0.5 miles of Hamlin Creek, an un-named creek commonly known as Spring Brook, and other un-named springs. All of these flow into the valley floor, contributing directly to the unique Sierra Valley wetland complex and ultimately entering the Middle Fork Feather River. The Middle Fork Feather River is a federally-designated Wild and Scenic River and a Category I Priority

Watershed in the California Unified Watershed Assessment. It flows into the Oroville Reservoir and the Sacramento River.

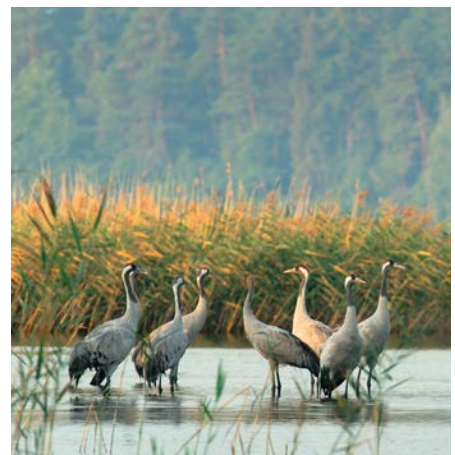
The Martinetti Ranch protects and restores productive springs along with more than 400 acres of mountain meadow that retains water for gradual release into the streams. The waters on the property are of such high-quality that the ranch obtains its drinking water directly from the spring. Rainbow trout and brown trout are also supported in the streams.

Shielded from Development

The section of Highway 89/49 that crosses through the Property is part of the Yuba-Donner Scenic Byway. Prevention of the ranch's subdivision and development will minimize degradation of the scenic values in the southern Sierra Valley. Restrictions on use of the property also assure today's scenic qualities are maintained and enhanced.

Conserving Climate Values

By enhancing the overall condition of this working property, the Martinetti Working Lands Conservation Easement will improve natural resilience in the face of a changing climate. The conservation easement and perpetual stewardship of the property will enhance carbon stores and protect contiguous wildlife habitat, mitigating climate change and providing critical wildlife refugia as species adapt.



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